THE

# School History

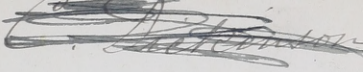
OF

# Australia

**Being a brief account of the Progress of the Colonies from the Earliest Discoveries to the year 1900.**

MELBOURNE:
A. N. SMITH, PUBLISHER, 70 QUEEN STREET.

1900.





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# PREFACE.

THIS short history of the Australian Colonies is intended primarily for use in schools; but although the information conveyed in it is condensed into a comparatively small space, it is sufficiently comprehensive to fulfil the requirements of many general readers. The necessity of some knowledge of the Political and Social antecedents of the country in which they live being imparted to all Australians is too obvious to need comment, and this little volume is published in the hope that it will supply a much-felt deficiency.

# THE HISTORY OF AUSTRALIA.

## NEW SOUTH WALES.

### The Finding of Australia.

1606 TO 1770.

FOR many years before the actual finding of Australia it was thought that a great tract of land existed in the south of the Pacific ocean, and many of the old map makers did not hesitate to place it on their charts. The return of Columbus from America led to a desire for further discoveries, and a number of ships were fitted out and sent on voyages by the Spaniards and Portuguese. Among these were three small vessels, which, in 1606, were sent from Peru under the orders of a Spaniard, named De Quiros: a seaman, named Torres, being second in command. They sailed away across the Pacific ocean, calling at many of the islands which they met, and at last reached a land which stretched to the north and the south as far as the eye could reach. A range of mountains was seen in the

distance, and De Quiros made sure he had found the great continent of which he was in search. The ships came to anchor in a bay, and a few of the men went on shore and began to traffic with some natives who had come down to the beach. But in a short time a dispute arose, and the Spaniards, being attacked, killed a chief and a number of his fellow savages. After a short stay the Spaniards put to sea again, only to meet with bad weather. Torres, with two ships, put back into the bay, but the sailors who were with De Quiros rose against him and forced him to return to America.

After waiting a few days Torres continued the voyage, and went right round the land at which they had stopped, thus proving it to be an island. It has since been found to have been one of the New Hebrides group. Torres then sailed to the west, for the purpose of getting to Manilla, in the Philipine Islands, reaching it after passing through the strait which divides Australia from New Guinea, which was later on called Torres Strait after him. In doing so he sighted Cape York, this being the first time, so far as is known, that Australia was was seen by a white man.

But the first white men who actually landed on the coast of Australia were not Spaniards, but Dutchmen. Almost at the same time that Torres was making his way through the strait to the north of Cape York, a ship called the *Duyfken*, or *Dove*, was sent on a voyage from Java to the south. Passing down the coast of New Guinea, her captain went along the western side of Cape York, under the idea that it was part of New Guinea, into the Gulf of Carpentaria. When he got back to Java he reported that there was no passage between the land he had discovered and New Guinea, and it was many years before Torres Strait was known to the Dutch.

Other Dutch captains also called at various parts of the Continent of Australia, most of them when driven out of their course by contrary winds. They gave names to a number of the capes and bays, such as Cape Leuwin, or Lioness, the name of a ship, and Dirk Hartog Island, called after a captain of that name.

It was not, however, until the middle of the century that any attempt was made to properly explore the land. In 1642 Anthony van Diemen, Governor of Java, sent Abel Tasman with two ships to make what discoveries he could to the south. He first landed on the shores of Tasmania, which he called Van Diemen's Land, in honour of the governor of Java, and then sailing east reached two large islands which he called New Zealand. From there he made his way back, reporting that he could find no fertile country.

It was not until nearly fifty years after that the English began to take part in the work of filling up the map of Australia. In 1688 William Dampier, who for some time had been fighting the Spaniards in America, joined a band of seamen who had resolved to attack the Dutch towns in the East India Islands. It took them nearly twelve months to reach them, but when they did arrive the booty they secured was very large.

After some time, however, it became necessary to refit the ship, and for this purpose they sailed to Australia, landing at Buccaneer's Archipelago, on the north-west coast, where they spent twelve days. Dampier afterwards left them and made his way to England, where he bought an estate with the money he had saved. He there wrote an account of his travels, and when it was resolved to send a ship to explore Australia he was made captain of her.

The vessel, which was only a small one, was called the *Roebuck*, and after a long voyage it reached Shark Bay in Western Australia. From there Dampier followed the coast round Roebuck Bay, a distance of about nine hundred miles. He reported, like the Dutch captains, that the land was bare, sandy, without water, and of no use to white men. The book in which he described his travels gave such a picture of the land that it stopped all desire to further explore it.

Nearly a hundred years passed before any further discoveries were made. In 1769 the British Government, at the request of the Royal Society, decided to send a party of astronomers to the Pacific Ocean to observe the transit of the planet Venus across the face of the sun. A small vessel, the *Endeavour*, was chosen for the purpose, and placed under the command of Captain James Cook. Captain Cook had risen from being an apprentice in a coal ship to the position of master in the Royal Navy, and had made many valuable surveys in different parts of the world. He was instructed to land the astronomers at the Island of Tahiti, and when their work was done to find out if there were a great continent in the Southern Ocean.

Sailing across the Atlantic, the *Endeavour* went round Cape Horn, and Tahiti was reached without mishap. The observations of the transit of Venus were made with great success, and the instruments having been taken on board, Cook sailed to the south. After a while he turned to the west and soon reached New Zealand. Here he spent six months, going right round both islands, and making complete maps and charts of them.

Leaving New Zealand at Cape Farewell, he went to the west for three weeks, and on April 19th, 1770, saw Cape Howe, which now marks the boundary between Victoria and New

South Wales. He sailed along the coast to the north, and at last reached a fine bay, in which he anchored.

As the boat in which he landed neared the shore two natives were seen and signs were made, but they did not respond to them, and, indeed, threw several spears at the sailors, and when a musket was fired showed no fear. Cook was quite unable to induce them to help him in any way, and although he made many other attempts to enter into terms of friendship with the natives at various places along the coast, it was always without success.

A stay of a week was made in the bay, and during that time two members of the scientific party, Sir Joseph Banks and Dr. Solander, collected a number of botanical specimens. Captain Cook therefore called the place Botany Bay, and, as he thought the coast along which he had sailed was like that of South Wales, he named the country New South Wales, taking possession of it on behalf of King George III.

On the 6th May he set sail once more, turning to the north, and keeping as close to the shore as was safe. After going a few miles he saw a second opening in the cliffs. He did not stay to enter it, but marked it on his chart, giving it the name of Port Jackson. Still going north he did not drop his anchor until Moreton Bay was reached. Here his stay was a short one, and he was soon again sailing to the north, making a chart of the coastline as he went. In all, about thirteen hundred miles of the shore was examined, and everything seemed to be going well when suddenly the ship struck on a coral bank.

For twenty-three hours all attempts to float the vessel off were in vain; but at last, by throwing the cannon and a number of other heavy articles overboard, Cook was again able to

get his ship afloat. It was then found that the sea was pouring in through the leaks which had been made in her side, and a sail was passed under the bottom of the ship so as to keep the water out. Soon afterwards the *Endeavour* was taken into a small river, which was named the Endeavour river, and it was found that a piece of coral had remained in the hole which had been made when she struck on the reef. This was taken out, and after two months had been spent in repairing the leaks, Cook sailed through Torres Strait and made his way home to England.

## The Founding of Sydney.

1770 TO 1788.

When Captain Cook got back to England and gave an account of what he had found, a large amount of interest was shown in his report, but the public men of the time did not regard the discovery as one which could be turned to any good use. It had been thought that all the land of Australia was as barren as that which Dampier had seen, and it came as a surprise to find that some of it was fertile and well watered. But there was no idea of using it for the purpose of founding a white colony. Soon afterwards, however, the people who had settled in North America broke out into revolt against the British flag: being driven into this course by great ill-treatment on the part of the British Government.

It had been the custom for Great Britain to send a large number of men and women found guilty of committing crimes to the North American colonies. At that time many acts which are not now considered crimes at all, or for which a

light fine is thought to be a sufficient penalty, were punished by long sentences of imprisonment. When, therefore, war put a stop to the practice of sending many of these prisoners to North America, they increased to such a number that all the gaols of the country were hardly large enough to hold them. Accordingly, the British Government sought for some other place which could be used for the same purpose, and Lord Sydney, who was at that time Home Secretary and had charge of all the prison arrangements, thought that the land discovered by Captain Cook would do. It was said, by those who had visited it, to be fertile, and it had the advantage of being a great distance away.

The plan of using that portion of Australia which had been named New South Wales for the transportation of convicts was much discussed before it was carried into effect, but at last it was definitely resolved to adopt it. Accordingly, in 1786, ten years after the American colonies had declared their independence and sixteen years after Captain Cook had landed at Botany Bay, directions were given for the preparation of a fleet. This was formed of the warship *Sirius*, its tender the *Supply*, six transports hired for the voyage, and three ships for carrying stores. There were placed on board these vessels seven hundred and seventy convicts, of whom five hundred and fifty were men and two hundred and twenty were women; while two hundred soldiers were sent to guard them. As they were to be landed on a coast which was bare of every kind of food, enough to last for two years was sent in the store ships, besides plenty of clothing, tools for building houses and for farming, and everything else which it was thought would be required. Altogether eight months were spent in making preparations.

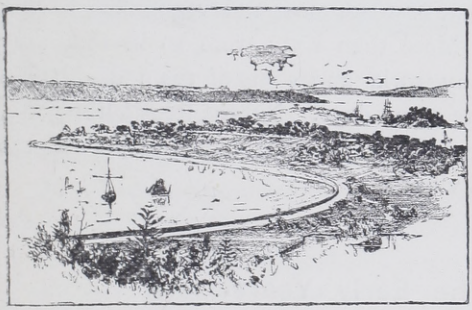
It then became necessary to choose somebody to act as Governor of the new settlement, and great care was exercised in doing so. At last Lord Sydney found the right man, and Captain Arthur Phillip was appointed. Captain Phillip had served in the war with France, but he also had other qualities which seemed to fit him for the position. Captain Hunter was sent as second in command, and a Mr. Collins as judge, to preside over the military courts which were to administer justice.

In May, 1787, the fleet started. It sailed to the south, and after a long voyage called at Rio Janeiro, in South America. Water and fresh meat were taken on board, and sail being again set, the fleet turned to the east and made for the Cape of Good Hope. Here a second stay was made, and live stock and an ample supply of seeds were bought. Then another start was made, and the long passage across to Australia commenced. By this time there was a great deal of sickness on the ships, and many of the convicts died from the close confinement. Slowly the fleet made its way, and at last, on the 18th of January, 1788, after a voyage of eight months, the first ship to arrive entered Botany Bay, the others reaching there one after the other on the two following days.

Captain Phillip lost no time in landing, and set a number of the convicts to work with axes to cut down some of the trees, which came right down to the water. But in a very short time he found that the spot was a most unfavourable one for a settlement, the bay being exposed to the full force of the great waves which rolled in from the Pacific, while the soil was sandy and poor. He then thought of the other opening in the coast which had been seen by Captain Cook, and taking three boats he set out to explore it. A few hours

brought him to the place, and those who were in the boats found themselves in a narrow entrance between overhanging cliffs. Threading their way through, they saw expanding before their eyes a splendid harbour which stretched in winding bays for miles in every direction. Its surface was dotted with islets, while the low hills with which it was surrounded were covered with trees. It was in every way a contrast to the exposed and inhospitable shores of Botany Bay.

For three days did Governor Phillip row about Port Jackson, going into a number of bays, landing here and there, and making a rough survey of its waters. He finally chose a small inlet as the best place at which to found his settlement, naming it Sydney Cove in honour of the minister who had sent him out. Here deep water was found close to the shore, while a small stream promised a supply of fresh water. The inlet is now known as Circular Quay, and hundreds of large ships load and discharge their cargoes there every year.



PORT JACKSON.

It did not take long to return to Botany Bay, and once there orders were quickly given to take on board all those convicts and soldiers who had been landed. The fleet then weighed anchor and was brought round the few miles of coast to Port Jackson, and without accident again anchored in the cove already chosen. All was then bustle and activity. A number of men were sent ashore to clear a space of ground, and as soon as

this had been done a flagstaff was erected. The whole party was then landed, except those officers and sailors who could not be spared from the ships, and Captain Phillip read the commission appointing him Governor of New South Wales. The soldiers fired three volleys to mark the occasion, the health of the King was drunk, and amid cheers the new colony was founded.

It took some days before all the men and women who had been brought out in the ships could be provided for on shore. After their long voyage they were only too glad to be on land again, but huts had to be built, and such stores as were wanted taken out of the ships. A very large number of the convicts were still sick, the want of fresh meat and vegetables having brought on scurvy. More than sixty were so ill that they were not able to do any work, and some of them died before they had been on shore many days. But the trees fell quickly, and before a month was over the place began to present the appearance of a small village.

## The Early Years.

1788 TO 1800.

A very slight examination of the land round Sydney showed that the soil was of poor quality, while as soon as an attempt was made to grow food for the settlement, it was found that none of the men sent out had any knowledge of farming. The convicts were almost useless, being not only lazy, but difficult to rule. They allowed the sheep and cattle to stray, and many of the former died. The food produced was therefore very small in amount, and that which had been brought out began

to diminish with alarming rapidity. Governor Phillip accordingly sent the *Sirius* to the Cape of Good Hope and the *Supply* to Batavia with money to purchase flour, but they were unable to obtain much, and a ship arriving with a number of additional convicts, but no provisions, everyone was put on half-rations. This was not enough to meet the emergency, and soon afterwards the allowance of food was still further reduced. The people got so weak from want of sustenance that all work had to be stopped, and such animals as were left were killed and eaten.

THE FIRST HOUSE IN SYDNEY.

To relieve the pressure Phillip resolved to send a number of his people to Norfolk Island. Lieutenant King, with twenty-seven soldiers and convicts, had already taken possession of it and cleared a piece of land, which proved to be of the most fertile character. The crops which they had put in had yielded well, and accordingly two hundred convicts and seventy soldiers were sent there in the *Sirius*. Unfortunately the vessel was wrecked near the island before she could return, and with her perished one of the mainstays of the colony.

Soon afterwards, however, three store ships arrived from England, and food was again plentiful. Excellent land had also been found at the head of Port Jackson, and a township was marked out near where Parramatta now stands. Things, therefore, began to look a little better, when suddenly a second

convict fleet arrived. This had started with seventeen hundred men and women prisoners on board, but the passage had been so long, and the arrangements so bad, that no less than two hundred had died on the voyage out, and the greater number of the others were in the last stages of sickness. The third fleet was not nearly so unlucky, but still had a large proportion of its passengers ill on its arrival at Sydney.

In 1792 the troubles which Governor Phillip had undergone affected his health and forced him to resign and seek a well-earned rest in England. The British Government wanted him to return to the scene of his labours, but he was unable to do so, and received a pension for his services.

It had been found difficult to maintain a sufficient guard of soldiers to look after the large number of convicts which now existed in New South Wales and Norfolk Island, so a special corps was raised and sent out for the purpose, its commander being a Major Grose. When Phillip went home Major Grose was left as Governor of the colony, and he and his officers at once introduced a system of military rule. Three years afterwards Captain Hunter, who had been in command of the *Sirius*, was sent out as Governor, but the military system was continued for some time. Under this the officers of the New South Wales corps were allowed to trade in various articles, the settlers and convicts being compelled to buy nearly everything they required from them. The principal thing dealt in by them, however, was rum, by selling which very large profits were made. So much was its consumption encouraged, that drunkenness increased to an alarming extent; and it was not until the New South Wales corps was disbanded some years afterwards that a better state of affairs was brought about.

But in spite of all these drawbacks the settlement began to make headway, and by the year 1800 the population had grown to between six and seven thousand persons. Most of these were kept in and about Sydney, but there were a number at Parramatta, and a few at Newcastle, where coal had been discovered. Many free settlers had been sent out, and grants of land being given to them on the Hawkesbury, large crops of wheat and maize were grown, and all fear of famine was at an end. The cattle which had been sent out had in most cases died on the voyage, but when the Hawkesbury was discovered a large herd of sixty was found grazing on its banks. These had descended from the animals which had escaped when landed from the first fleet, and when they were again taken possession of they rapidly increased to large numbers.

Not many attempts were made to explore the interior of the colony, the long and high range of the Blue Mountains presenting a barrier which could not be crossed, while the earlier governors had neither the time nor the wish to open up a large extent of country. Along the coast, however, more was done. The seamen who were attached to the colony went along to the north and the south, and gradually mapped out the different features met with. In 1796 George Bass, the surgeon, and Matthew Flinders, one of the midshipmen of the *Reliance*, the ship in which Governor Hunter had come out, started on an expedition to the south. They could only obtain a boat eight feet long, but in this they set out and examined nearly forty miles of coast, only getting back after some trouble from the natives and the elements.

Later on Governor Hunter gave Bass a whale boat, provisions for six weeks, and six men for a crew. With these he again started for the south and discovered the Shoalhaven

River, Jervis Bay, Twofold Bay, and rounding Cape Howe, saw the coasts of what was afterwards Victoria. Sailing along the Ninety-mile Beach he passed Wilson's Promontory, and meeting bad weather, entered Western Port Bay, where he stayed thirteen days. His provisions here running short he was forced to return to Sydney. In all he charted six hundred miles of coast, and established the great fact that Van Diemen's Land was separated from Australia by the strait which has been named after him.

While Bass had been thus engaged Flinders had been on a voyage to New Norfolk in the *Reliance*. When he returned Governor Hunter gave the two friends a small sloop, and in this they sailed right round Tasmania, Flinders making charts of the places they visited. Bass afterwards went to South America, where he is supposed to have been captured and sent to the silver mines by the Spaniards. Flinders remained in the British service and having published his charts in London he was raised to the rank of Lieutenant and sent out to make further discoveries. Sailing to the south coast of Australia he entered Port Phillip and Spencer Gulf. He afterwards went to the North of Sydney, and, rounding Cape York, examined Torres Strait. When taking his papers to England Flinders was forced to land at Mauritius, where he was cast into prison by the French, being kept there six years. When he was set free he wrote an account of his travels, but his sufferings had undermined his health, and he died on the very day that his book was published.

## Convicts and Soldiers.

1800 TO 1808.

In 1800 Governor Hunter gave place to Captain King, who had already visited Australia, having, indeed, been the officer who settled New Norfolk. King did all he could to make the convict colony a prosperous community, but the difficulties under which he laboured were almost too great for him. The convicts sent out were, as a rule, the worst who could be found in the gaols of England, and were quite ignorant of all useful pursuits. At that time there were no free settlers, those who emigrated from Great Britain naturally going to the United States, where they were sure of finding, at a distance of but a few weeks' sail, an occupied, fertile, and well-ordered country. Governor King therefore found the people of New South Wales to consist of two classes only, the prisoners of the Crown, and the officers and soldiers sent out to guard them. The first were useless and depraved, and the second but too often unruly and corrupt.

As time went on, and the fear of famine began to die away, the convicts became harder to manage. The best of them were assigned as servants to such retired officers as had taken up land, the others being chained in gangs, and employed in making roads or on Government farms. One of the largest of these gangs, containing as many as three or four hundred men, broke out into open revolt at Castlehill, near Parramatta, and seizing two hundred and fifty muskets, set out for the Hawkesbury. Here they expected to be joined by other convicts stationed there, but Major Johnstone, with twenty four soldiers, attacked them while on the march, and killing several, the rest fled and were afterwards again captured.

But perhaps the Governor's greatest trouble was with the New South Wales Corps. His utmost efforts to put a stop to the traffic in rum were in vain. Some of the officers actually set up stills, and made raw spirit from the corn grown in the colony, while others seized large tracts of land and worked them with convict slaves. King had no power but that which the corps could give him—it took eighteen months before a reply could be obtained to any letter sent to England, and the authorities there naturally looked upon the colony as a place of minor importance.

Among the officers of the New South Wales Corps was a man named Macarthur who had come out as a lieutenant. He obtained possession of a large amount of land and then resigned his position to work it. He did all that he could to support his old comrades in the corps, and had frequent quarrels with both Hunter and King, for his temper was hasty and obstinate. He was one of the first men, however, who saw that Australia was capable of industrial development on a large scale; and he laid down a great extent of country in crops. He also planted vines and fruit trees, started wine-making, and sent a whaler into the Southern Ocean searching for oil.

But his greatest success, and one for which all Australia must forgive him everything else, was his introduction of the merino sheep for wool-growing. He sent to the Cape of Good Hope for a number of sheep, but they did not do well on his land, and their growth of wool was poor and light. He then paid a visit to England, and King George III, hearing of his project, made him a present of several Spanish merino ewes and rams. While in England he also secured an additional grant of ten thousand acres of land. The sheep he took to

Sydney, looking after them with the greatest care while on the voyage. He was allowed by Governor King to select half of his grant in a very fertile spot known as the "cow pastures," and here he placed the sheep; naming the locality Camden, after the Secretary of State who had made him the grant. They flourished amazingly, and in a few years he had large flocks, which were drafted all over the settled parts. These flocks were the beginning of the great wool industry of Australia.

At the end of six years King gave up the struggle with his various difficulties in disgust, and went home to England. The British Government chose as his successor a man who it was thought would have sufficient strength of character to bear down all opposition. This was Captain Bligh, who had already had some stormy experiences. He had been sent to the South Sea Islands in his ship, the *Bounty*, for a cargo of bread-fruit, but owing to his overbearing conduct his sailors had mutinied and put him and eighteen of his officers and crew, who had remained loyal, into an open boat, and left them in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. But whatever else he was, Bligh was no coward, and a good seaman. He sailed the boat a distance of 3500 miles to Timor, and brought all his party safely to England.

Bligh went out to Australia fully determined to govern it with despotic power. He attempted to put a stop to the traffic in spirits with a firm hand, and notwithstanding the opposition of those who had been making large profits by it, he very nearly succeeded. But the officers of the New South Wales Corps were too strong for him, and although he had the support of the smaller settlers, and many of the emancipated convicts, he was in the end defeated.

Macarthur, who by now was one of the most influential men in the colony, was condemned to pay a fine for allowing a convict to escape. He refused to do so, and Bligh appointed six officers to try him for his disobedience. But Macarthur would not even appear before them, and the officers themselves even took his part. Bligh was so angry that he threatened to put them all in gaol, and Macarthur then promoted a petition asking Major Johnstone, the commander of the New South Wales Corps, to depose him and assume command of the colony. This was done, the Governor being made a prisoner. He was afterwards permitted to go to Tasmania, and from there to England, where he rejoined the navy, in which he rose to the position of an admiral.

Major Johnstone soon gave up his position to Colonel Foveaux, who in turn was succeeded by Colonel Patterson. Johnstone was dismissed from the army, and the Government determined to recall the New South Wales Corps.

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## Governor Macquarie.

1808 TO 1820.

The British Government next sent out a military governor to New South Wales. This was Colonel Lachlan Macquarie, who was given a regiment of the regular army to support his authority. It was announced in the most positive terms that the action of the men who had deposed Governor Bligh was disapproved, and all appointments and land grants made by them were disallowed. Bligh himself was ordered to be reinstated for one day, and this was done in his absence, he having left the colony.

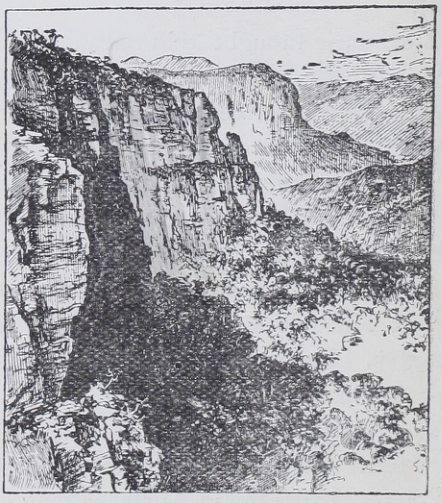
Macquarie found himself in a far different position to the governors who had gone before him. The New South Wales Corps was no longer in Australia to thwart him, while the soldiers at his back enabled him to put down abuses with a firm hand. He had the good of the colony sincerely at heart, and such troubles as he had to contend with were mainly brought about by his trying to raise the condition of the convicts. By this time there were a number of free settlers, many of them being retired officers, soldiers and officials, and some of them British farmers who had braved the long voyage to take up the free land which was offered to them. Besides these, there were numerous emancipated prisoners, men and women, whose terms of servitude had expired. Some of them had done well and accumulated property, and a few were quite rich.

Macquarie thought that once a convict was made free his previous life should not be held to be against him, and that he should be received on a footing of equality by those who had not come out as prisoners. Accordingly he placed many of the time-expired men in positions of trust, even making some of them justices of the peace, and inviting them to dinner. This was deeply resented by the non-convict population, and quarrels between the two sections were incessant.

But Macquarie took many other means to develop the country. Farms, with liberal help and instruction, were given to all who would take them up, and a vigorous policy of road-making was carried on. When he arrived there were only a few bush tracks by which to get from place to place, but before he had been in Australia long some hundreds of miles of good roads radiated in every direction from Sydney. Nor were public buildings forgotten, for some fine stone was

quarried in the vicinity of Sydney and a number of them of large dimensions commenced. Every year he made a tour of the settlements, visiting the farmers and encouraging them to build houses and improve their land. He opened a number of schools, and it was his pride that the children of the colony should not be allowed to grow up ignorant. In fact, although Macquarie had his faults, the chief of which was a somewhat overstrained vanity, he was a power for great good in Australia; and his stay of twelve years saw a larger advance in its well-being than almost any other period.

Ever since the first fleet arrived, the colonists had been confined to a narrow strip of the coast, not more than fifty miles wide, by the range known as the Blue Mountains. The want of more territory had not been greatly felt in the early years, but as the sheep industry grew many attempts were made to secure suitable land for the large flocks which grew up. But the Blue Mountains presented an impassable barrier, its precipices and deep ravines always stopping those who wanted to get across. Macquarie set his heart on finding a practicable path over the range, and encouraged all who tried to find a way. Among those



THE BLUE MOUNTAINS.

who thus earned his favour was Bass, who was, however, like the others, stopped by the great range of cliffs which ran along the edge of the valleys. In 1813, a man named Gregory Blaxland thought he would try a new plan, and instead of seeking to penetrate the valleys made his way to the top of the mountains and so forced his way over them. He had with him a young colonist, named Wentworth, and a Lieutenant Lawson, and after seventeen days hard work, the three found themselves on the other side of the range and on a wide plain. The grass on it was three feet high, and through it ran a fine stream. The three returned to Sydney, and Governor Macquarie was so pleased with their report that he sent a surveyor, named Evans, to make a further and more detailed inspection. Evans went on beyond the point reached by Blaxland for three weeks, and found a fine stretch of open land, which was named the Bathurst Plains.

Macquarie hastened to get out plans for a road over the track which had at length been discovered, and in a short time men were at work. The difficulties were great. A path had to be hewn through the virgin forest, in many places solid rock had to be cut away, and in others bridges had to be built across the ravines which intersected the route. But everything gave way before the energy of the Governor, and in a little over a year the road was completed. By 1815 he was able to take Mrs. Macquarie over the mountains in a carriage, laying out the town of Bathurst during the journey.

The opening of this road gave a great impetus to the colony. The sheep growers were able to take their flocks over it and to settle them on the land which was found in such abundance and excellence on the other side. Moreover the spirit of discovery was aroused, and party after party went into the interior of the

colony in all directions. Two large rivers, flowing to the west, and therefore away from the sea on the Sydney coast, had been discovered by Blaxland and Evans, and these had been named the Lachlan and the Macquarie, after the Governor's Christian and surnames. In 1817, the Surveyor-General, John Oxley, started down the Lachlan with eleven companions. They went down it for three weeks, passing through three swamps, and at the end of that time turned back. Two days more would have brought them to the Murrumbidgee. The next year Oxley went down the Macquarie, but with no better success.

While Macquarie was thus employed, however, there had been growing up a somewhat unfriendly spirit towards him. His efforts to secure social equality for the time-expired convicts was the main cause of this, but there was also a general feeling that his public works policy was too ambitious for the young colony. Complaints were made to the Government in England, and a special commissioner was sent out to report on the state of affairs. This gentleman condemned the Governor's policy in regard to the convicts, and also some of his extensive public works, but gave him full credit for his general management of the colony. It was thought, however, better that a new Governor should be sent out, and Macquarie went home to England.

## Expansion of the Colony.

1821 TO 1837.

Up to the time that Governor Macquarie left New South Wales, Australia had been looked upon, both by the authorities in England and the people in the colony, as a purely convict settlement. But about that time a considerable

hange began to take place in public opinion. On the one and the voice of the free settlers, who were spreading out rom Sydney, began to be heard in protest, and on the other and the penal laws of Great Britain began to be relaxed, and vith this followed a great decline in the number of convict risoners. Accordingly it was resolved to treat Australia as place which might eventually develop into a prosperous and rogressive free country. Sir Thomas Brisbane was sent out o act as Governor while the new policy was being matured, nd when it was ready General Darling was sent out to dminister it. A Legislative Council was instituted for the urpose of advising the Governor, it being provided that he ould not act against its wishes, but if he disagreed with it on ny particular matter must refer the disputed point to England or decision. A Supreme Court was established, and trial by jury was introduced. The censorship which had existed in regard to the newspapers was partially removed, and, above all, immigration of free farmers was greatly encouraged, many being assisted out of the funds obtained by the sale of land.

It was not long before these reforms began to be insufficient to satisfy the growing wishes of the Australians. The council which had been instituted consisted of fourteen members, seven official, and seven unofficial. All were nominated by the British Government, and the colonists had no voice whatever in their appointment. This was felt to be an injustice, and an agitation arose for an elective body : the cry of "No taxation without representation" being raised by William Charles Wentworth, who was one of the leaders of the movement. It was some years, however, before the colony was granted real self-government. But the population continued to increase, and in 1833 had risen to 60,000, of whom 24,000

were convicts, and 36,000 free persons. The yearly immigration was about 6000, of whom half were free and half convicts.

In the meantime discovery after discovery was being made beyond the Blue Mountains. Oxley found a great river flowing into Moreton Bay, and named it after Governor Brisbane. Soon afterwards Hume and Hovell discovered the Murrumbidgee, and having crossed it made their way across the country to the south until they came to the Murray, which was at first called the Hume. Crossing this river they travelled right through what is now the colony of Victoria, reaching Port Phillip somewhere near where Geelong now is. They returned to Sydney, suffering great hardships on the way.

But the greatest explorer of all was Charles Sturt. Sturt was a military officer who had a passion for journeying into the bush, and Governor Darling chose him to head an expedition which was to find out what became of the Lachlan and the Macquarie. It was found impossible to follow them, a long drought having dried up their beds. The Darling, however, was discovered, but this also was very low, and the water in it was quite salt. A year later Sturt, with a party of eight, left Sydney to find out where the Murrumbidgee went to. They reached its banks above Hay, and after following it on foot for some distance launched two boats they had with them and continued down the stream. Seven days brought them to the Murray, and this they sailed down until they reached the sea. They had been much harrassed by the blacks on the way down, but the return journey was undertaken amidst terrible hardships. It was only after many weeks that they reached Sydney, and then all were injured from exposure and the labour of pulling so far against the

stream: while Sturt lost his sight and did not regain it for a long time. In 1831 Sir Thomas Mitchell, the Surveyor-General, determined to connect the isolated discoveries which had been made, and undertook a seven months' journey through the south-east portion of the continent, during which he passed through the greater portion of Victoria.

Governor Darling was succeeded by Major General Bourke, who was one of the best and most popular Governors ever sent to Australia. Darling had made many enemies, chiefly by his arbitrary methods of government, but Bourke, who arrived in December, 1831, held aloof from the small quarrels of his predecessor, and devoted himself to the progress of the colony. Up to the time of his arrival it had been the practice to give free grants of land to any person who could show a reasonable prospect of using it. This system was now altered, and all land was put up to auction and sold to the highest bidder. A minimum price of five shillings per acre was fixed, and a large amount of land was sold at this sum. Across the Blue Mountains, however, it was found better to give the squatters and sheep-growers permission to occupy large tracts without purchase, and in this way an enormous extent of country was taken up.

For some years previous to the arrival of Governor Bourke there had been a number of robberies by bushrangers. This evil gradually got worse, until at last it was unsafe to travel about from one part of the colony to another, the escaped convicts roaming about and attacking all who ventured into the country without a strong escort. Accordingly a most severe Act was passed to suppress these men, and this had the desired effect, for after a little while they almost entirely disappeared.

Another great reform effected during Bourke's term of office was the regulation of the coinage. Sufficient money to carry on the ordinary affairs of daily life had never been sent out from England, and to meet the wants of the colony a number of expedients had been resorted to. Many of the principal business people issued their own paper notes, these being known as currency, while foreign coins, such as French francs, Dutch guilders, American cents, and Indian mohurs and rupees were all accepted and passed from hand to hand. The principal medium, however, was the Mexican dollar, which was reckoned as worth five shillings. Mexico was at that time the great silver-producing country of the world, and the dollars made there circulated all over Asia. In order to make coins of less value Governor Macquarie ordered a small piece to be punched out of the centre of some of the dollars, this being called a "dump," and taken to be worth fifteen pence. The outer piece came to be known as the "holey dollar." All these expedients were abolished, and a sufficiency of English money being introduced it became the medium of circulation everywhere.

## Self-Government.

1837 TO 1850.

New South Wales had now completely emerged from its infant state, and was a sturdy community quite fit to run alone. Many of its people therefore thought that a greatly increased measure of self-government should be granted to it; and some of them did not hesitate to find fault with the manner in which the affairs of the colony were managed by the Governors sent out by the British Government. They obtained

ome seats in the Legislative Council, and frequently quarrelled with Sir Richard Bourke. In 1837 that Governor went home, nd was succeeded by Sir George Gipps, who proved to be a man vell able to restrain any undue encroachment on the Imperial rivileges. Very early in his term it was resolved to cease ending convicts to Sydney. The squatters were by no means verse to the practice, for they found a ready and cheap supply of labour in the prisoners; but the remainder of the free population was quite opposed to it, being of opinion that the colony would never make much progress while it was continued.

The British Government had appointed a committee to inquire into the matter, and a great deal of evidence was taken. This showed that some very grave abuses had crept into the methods of transporting and assigning the convicts, and great alterations were recommended. Acting on this report an Order in Council was issued in 1840 abolishing all transportation of convicts to Sydney, and directing that all prisoners sent out should go to Tasmania or to Norfolk Island. The squatters were at first inclined to petition against this, but they were told that no self-government could be granted to a convict colony, and they preferred ruling themselves to obtaining the services of assigned pickpockets and burglars. Some years afterwards an endeavour was made to land a number of men who had been set free on tickets-of-leave and sent to Australia, but public feeling on the matter was too strong, and the attempt failed. The convict population gradually died out, and none of it now remains.

The way having been thus cleared a further instalment of freedom from British supervision was granted. In 1842 the Legislative Council was enlarged and given more power, its

numbers being increased to thirty-six, of whom twelve were nominated and twenty-four elected. A few years afterwards even this became insufficient to satisfy the aspirations of the colonists, and as the settlers in the Port Phillip district were agitating for separation from New South Wales, Earl Grey, who had the management of colonial affairs at this time, called on the Board of Trade to devise a scheme of self-government for the Australian Colonies. After some consideration this body recommended that Port Phillip be separated from New South Wales and erected into a separate colony, and that an Act be passed enabling the different Australian colonies to formulate and adopt such constitutions as they chose. Under this Act Councils met in four colonies in 1851, and in a short while the constitutions chosen were in full-working order. They all provided for two houses, a Legislative Assembly to represent the people, and a Legislative Council to act as a House of Review.

In the meanwhile the further exploration of the interior of Australia had been steadily going on, many explorers penetrating the continent in various directions. Among these the name of Ludwig Leichardt is one of the most important. In the year 1844 Leichardt, a German botanist, started from Sydney and made his way to the Gulf of Carpentaria, travelling through fine country consisting of forest and pasture. He found and followed up many rivers, including the Fitzroy, the Burdekin, the Mitchell, and the Gilbert. He rounded the Gulf, and following the Alligator River, embarked on a vessel which awaited him in Van Diemen's Gulf. He was warmly received in Sydney—the Government voted him £1000, and the people of the colony subscribed £1500 more for presentation to him.

His ardent nature did not allow him to rest for long, so in 1847 he started for the north of Queensland, but returned without effecting much. In 1848 he set out on his final expedition, intending to cross Australia from Moreton Bay to Swan River. He was heard of from Cogoon River, from which he started into the wilderness, but from that day he and his party have been so utterly lost to view that no traces of their remains have ever been discovered by the many search-parties sent to look for the missing men.

## The Gold Discoveries.

1851 TO 1860.

In 1851 a marvellous change came over the social life of Australia. In 1849 gold had been discovered in California, and many Australians made their way to San Francisco and from there to the gold-fields. Many of these were struck with the resemblance between the country in which the gold was found in California and that which they had left behind them in Australia. Among them was a man named Edward Hargraves, who had lived near Bathurst, and who thought gold should also exist there. Learning the methods of getting the gold he made up his mind to return, and taking passage in a vessel bound for Sydney he was in a few months again in New South Wales. Arrived there he made the necessary preparations, and in February, 1851, found that his surmises had been correct; for he washed traces of gold from different places over a large extent of country about the head waters of the Macquarie. He hastened back to Sydney and disclosed the

matter to the Government. The news quickly spread, and by the middle of May 400 men were camped at a spot which was named Ophir. Gold was quickly found at several other localities, and many thousands of men left Sydney to search for it.

Soon afterwards gold in enormous quantities was discovered in Victoria, the fields there being much richer than any found in New South Wales. The result was that numbers of those who had started digging in the parent colony crossed the Murray for Ballarat and Bendigo. These sent back such glowing accounts of their success to their friends that the emigration from New South Wales assumed extraordinary proportions. In a few years that colony lost a fourth of its population. The Government, and those who required labour to work their stations began to get alarmed, but an unlimited market for the sheep and cattle of the northern plains had been created, and wages rose to high rates. Numbers of the immigrants who had been attracted to Australia from Great Britain and other countries therefore made their way to New South Wales instead of stopping in Victoria. The numbers of those who landed in Sydney in 1850 were 2,661, and in 1851, the year of the gold discovery, they were only 4,508, but in 1852 they rose to nearly 13,000 and kept above 10,000 per annum for some time afterwards. Moreover, although the gold produce of Victoria completely overshadowed that of New South Wales, still there were some very profitable fields north of the Murray. These were mostly situated on the slopes of the Great Dividing Range, or on the adjacent tablelands, the principal diggings being the Ophir and the Turon.

In other ways the gold discoveries tended to the progress of the colony. The great increase in the wealth of the community enabled many things to be done which would have

been impossible without it. An Act was passed incorporating a University for Sydney, and many public schools were opened in different towns. An even greater innovation was the building and opening of the first railways, lines being laid down to Parramatta and to Campbelltown, and from Newcastle to Maitland. These were built by private enterprise, but were soon afterwards taken over by the Government. About this time, also, a branch of the Imperial Mint was opened in Sydney. By the year 1860 the revenue of New South Wales had increased to £1,600,000, the growth and export of wool had increased enormously, and the amount of gold found was worth over £1,000,000 annually.

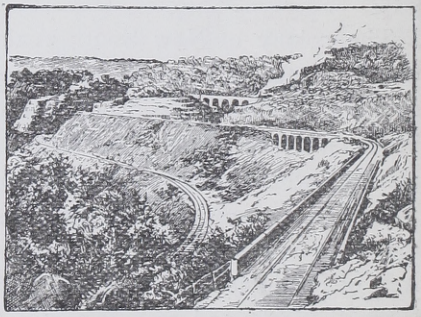
## A Prosperous Colony.

1860 TO 1900.

The colony of New South Wales had now entered on a career of steady progress and prosperity, and the position of the various Governors who came out to rule it became one in which the social duties greatly exceeded in importance the political work. Parliamentary Government was well-established, and the Colonial Ministers, when supported by a majority of the Legislative Assembly, held supreme power. Acts of Parliament were passed providing for the sale of land in small blocks and on easy terms, but these did not become law without fierce opposition on the part of the squatters, whose runs thus became liable to be cut up. The squatters were well represented in the Legislative Council, and a quarrel ensued between the Assembly, which was in favour of land

reform, and the Council. The opposition was overcome, however, and thousands of farmers were enabled to obtain homes on the plains formerly given up wholly to sheep.

In 1868 the whole of the colonies were thrown into a state of excitement by an event which might have had a most unfortunate ending. No member of the Royal Family had ever visited Australia, and great pleasure was therefore expressed on all sides when it was announced that the Queen's second son, the Duke of Edinburgh was to pay a visit to the growing southern dependancy of the Crown. Great preparations were made to give the Duke a warm welcome, the streets of the cities he visited being gaily decorated, and enormous crowds gathering to cheer him. While at Sydney, however, he was attacked by a man named O'Farrell. The Duke joined in a picnic at Clontarf, and while there O'Farrell stepped forward and fired a pistol at him, shooting him in the back. The Duke fell dangerously wounded, and for a few days it was thought that his life was in danger; he rallied, however, and was about again in a few weeks. O'Farrell could give no reason for his rash act, except a dislike of Royalty, and he was afterwards tried and executed.



THE ZIG-ZAG RAILWAY.

Railway construction was pushed steadily on, one after another of the outer portions of the colony being placed in communication with the capital. But before the Western

District line could be laid, it was necessary to get over the Blue Mountains. This was an engineering feat of great difficulty, but it was accomplished, although not without heavy cost. Great viaducts were constructed, tunnels were bored through the mountains, and finally when the gradients became too steep for anything else, the famous "zig-zag" was made. By this the trains go to the right and left alternately, rising gradually every time, until the summit is reached, at a height of three thousand five hundred feet. The same means are used to descend the other side. The Western Railways now reach all the way to the Darling.

In 1879 an International Exhibition was held in Sydney, this being intended to show what progress the colony had made since its foundation. Large numbers of visitors came to it, not only from the country districts of New South Wales, but also from the neighbouring states, and even from Europe and America. The Exhibition was in every way a great success, and general regret was felt when, after its close, the building which had been erected to hold it was accidentally destroyed by fire.

In 1885 Great Britain became involved in a war in the Soudan, and the Government of New South Wales offered the services of a contingent of Colonial soldiers. The offer was accepted, and amid great enthusiasm a regiment was despatched from Sydney. By the time they arrived in the Soudan, however, the fighting was practically over, and the men returned without seeing any of it. But in 1899 fighting broke out at the other end of Africa, war taking place between the Boers of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State and Great Britain owing to the former ill-treating the British subjects who had gone to work the gold mines of Johannesburg. This was the most serious conflict Great Britain had

been engaged in for over forty years, and all the Australian colonies offered to assist the Empire with contingents of men. New South Wales was well to the fore, and a hundred lancers, who had been in England for training, were at once sent to the Cape, leaving London amid a great demonstration of good will and thanks to Australia. Further drafts of men and guns were sent from Sydney, and large subscriptions to the fund in aid of the relatives of those who might be killed or wounded showed how intense the popular feeling had become.

When the vastness of the Australian continent is considered it is not to be wondered at that the isolated settlements should seek some form of independent Government, which, being on the spot, could deal with public questions as they arose. This was obtained by one after the other of the colonies, but with the development and improved communication which arose as time went on, common interests were created which could be best dealt with by common action. The forces which had led to separation began to lose their power, while those which led to unity constantly increased in strength. It soon became obvious that in such important matters as railway-junctions, bridges over large rivers, telegraphic communication, mail contracts and mutual defence, combination was essential for effective work. Many undertakings in which two or more colonies were concerned became thus possible and were completed.

But it was felt that these temporary expedients were of little real use, and were always liable to fail. A general sentiment in favor of a federation of all the colonies therefore arose, and as a result of a Conference of the Premiers of the different states it was resolved to hold a National Convention to draft a Federal Constitution. Ten delegates were elected

by each colony and three sittings were held, one in Adelaide, one in Sydney, and one in Melbourne. While these sittings were being held the Parliament of New South Wales passed an Act declaring that the Constitution should not be adopted by New South Wales unless at least eighty thousand electors voted in favour of it. When the voting took place it was found that although there was a majority in favor of New South Wales joining the Federation, the number of eighty thousand had not been reached. Accordingly there was another meeting of Premiers, and after a few alterations had been made in the Constitution Bill, it was again submitted to the people, when it was carried by a large majority over the required number.

# VICTORIA.

## Early Discoveries.

1800 TO 1835.

This province, forming the south-east corner of the Australian Continent is in area the smallest of the colonies: its extreme length from east to west being about 420 miles, and its greatest breadth about 250 miles. Its total area is 87,884 square miles, which is a little less than that of Great Britain. The coast was sighted by Captain Cook in the *Endeavour*; but Mr. Clarke, the supercargo, and some of the crew of the *Sydney Cove*, wrecked to the southward of Cape Howe, are believed to have been the first white men who actually landed on it. Little was done, however, in the way of exploring the country, until in 1803 Mr. Charles Grimes, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, entered Port Phillip Heads in the vessel *Cumberland*. He made but a short visit to Hobson's Bay and then returned to Sydney.

In the same year Lieutenant Colonel Collins was sent out from England with a small armed force and a party of convicts, to form a settlement on the shores of Port Phillip similar to the one already existing at Sydney. He landed on the beach near where Sorrento now is, but finding some trouble in obtaining a supply of water, he only gave the place a trial of about three months, when he abandoned it, and took the whole

of his party across the Strait to Tasmania. It is quite clear that Collins made no real attempt to learn what the country was like: a very little labour spent in travelling along the eastern shore of the Bay would have revealed the existence of several fresh-water creeks, and the extreme fertility of the soil. Collins had personal reasons for going to Tasmania, and these no doubt weighed with him.

It is curious to reflect that Victoria, the most fertile portion of the Australian continent, and the one with the most suitable climate for white men, should have been so much neglected by the officials of New South Wales. But the explanation is, after all, simple enough. The ruling class in the old colony was a small one, and the country was of such vast extent that the officials and settlers could obtain grants of land of almost any size. They therefore felt little desire to wander too far from Sydney into the unknown, and, perhaps, dangerous land to the south. For these reasons the feeble efforts made by the mother colony to explore the south-east portion of the continent, and the equally timid attempts from England, resulted in nothing practical being done; while such reports of the country as reached the authorities were not encouraging.

Thus it came about that Tasmania, at that time known as Van Diemen's Land, claims the honour of being the real founder of Victoria.

It was in the year 1834 that Edward and Stephen Henty, two brothers who had for years carried on a whaling station in Tasmania, landed a party on the mainland of Australia. They found a place which was not only easy of access, but which afforded good shelter for shipping in all weathers—this they called Portland. They soon saw that in the the rich pasture land of this district there was more wealth than in the danger-

ous and uncertain business of whaling. Accordingly they imported from Tasmania a number of sheep and cattle, which rapidly multiplied.

The news that good grass lands in any quantity could be had by crossing Bass Strait quickly spread, and other flock-masters soon followed the example which had been set them. It seemed probable that other portions of the coast would offer similar advantages if they were only looked for, and men of enterprise to make the search were not wanting.

## The Birth of Melbourne.

1835 TO 1837.

On the 12th of May 1835, John Batman, a native of New South Wales, who was then on a visit to Tasmania ; and who had no doubt heard all about what the Hentys had done, sailed from Launceston in a small schooner of about thirty tons. In this vessel, and with a crew of only three other white men, assisted by seven aboriginals, he sailed into Port Phillip Bay, and succeeded in finding the Yarra, up which he ascended about three miles. From here he explored the new district in the direction of where Northcote now stands, No doubt when Batman viewed the country, he saw that the land was good and promised well for sheep-breeding. He made a bargain with the simple natives, by which, in exchange for a few blankets knives, and tomahawks, he obtained a transfer of nearly one thousand square miles of territory. Later on he made an agreement on similar terms for 100,000 acres in the Geelong district. Both arrangements were cancelled by the British Government, but Batman was allowed a considerable sum of money on account of his discoveries.

Within two months of Batman's departure from Launceston, a man who was to leave a great mark on the new country despatched from the same port a schooner of fifty tons called the *Enterprise*. This was John Pascoe Fawkner, and of all Victoria's pioneers there is not one whose memory is held in higher respect. He was at this time too ill to take personal control of the little expedition, so the vessel was commanded by John Lancey, who, arriving in the River Yarra at the end of August, 1835, moored his craft to the trees which then grew by the side of the stream. Fawkner, however, was able to join his vessel on the next voyage, and, his family accompanying him, reached the place which is now Melbourne, in the month of October.

The fame of the land continued to spread, and numbers of people began to cross from Tasmania, while many shepherds and stockmen found their way over from the more settled portions of New South Wales. It must be borne in mind that the new district of Port Phillip was then part of the Mother Colony. Sir Richard Bourke, the Governor of New South Wales, accordingly sent a Mr. G. Stewart to report on the actual position of affairs in the young settlement. This was one year after Batman had first landed, and on the 25th of May, 1836, Mr. Stewart found the population to consist of 177 persons, viz:—142 males and 35 females. These were, of course, all white people, as no estimate of the aboriginals was made. By the following November, the 177 had increased to 224, and every fresh arrival sent such glowing accounts of the richness of the land to his friends, that immigration was encouraged, and by the 12th of September, 1838, the population had grown to 3,511 persons, of whom 3,080 were males and 431 were females.

So soon as Governor Bourke was satisfied that the Port Phillip settlement was likely to be both permanent and thriving, he took means to provide some form of government. Lieutenant King was sent over with a force of thirty soldiers to maintain order, and three surveyors were appointed to prepare plans of the district, previous to any of the land being offered for sale. On the 1st of October, 1836, the *Rattlesnake* arrived at the mouth of the Yarra with Captain Lonsdale, who had been appointed the first Magistrate of Port Phillip—a residence being erected for him in William Street on the site where now stands the Savings Bank. On the 4th March, 1837, Captain Lonsdale was followed by Sir Richard Bourke himself, who was accompanied by Surveyor Hoddle, and these two made a hurried inspection of the collection of huts and stores which were fast growing into a town. It was on this occasion that Bourke gave the place its name, calling it Melbourne, after Lord Melbourne, who was at that time Prime Minister of Great Britain.

The first comers had acquired no legal right to their holdings, even though they had erected small dwellings on them. They knew quite well that the only authority which could give them legal title was the New South Wales Government, and accordingly they were anxious for authorized sales of land. In the meantime the three advanced surveyors had been preparing plans, which were now approved of. These provided for a city along the northern bank of the Yarra, to be one mile in length, by half-a-mile in length, by half-a-mile in width.

On the 1st of June, 1837, the long looked-for sale took place, the allotments consisting of half-an-acre each. After keen bidding the first of these was sold to Fawkner for £32.

One plot near the wharf sold for £60, and the whole day's sale realized no less than £3,842.

The effects of the land sale were seen at once. The people feeling their position secure, quickly replaced their bark huts and canvas tents with brick or weather-board houses, the bricks being imported from Tasmania. Perhaps a greater proof of rapid progress was shown by the appearance of a newspaper which was started by Fawkner, at first in manuscript, but afterwards in letterpress. He called it the *Melbourne Advertiser*, and it existed for some years. The first number was issued at the end of 1837.

## Settling the Country.

1837 TO 1850.

While this rapid progress was being made in Melbourne, the country districts were constantly receiving fresh residents, who came from Tasmania, New South Wales, and Great Britain. Naturally the lands near the new town on the Yarra were the first to be taken up, but as these became occupied, the later comers had to go further and further out in search of vacant spaces. The Western District was occupied by way of Geelong, Colac and Warrnambool; the north-west by Mount Buninyong; the north by Mounts Macedon and Alexander, and the north-east by Seymour, Benalla, and the hilly country of the Ovens. The towns named did not then exist, but their presence to-day shows the general direction of the routes taken. At distant intervals along these main lines of traffic, little townships began to appear, the land between them being almost entirely devoted to the production of wool.

There was, of course, a certain quantity of land under crops, but wool was the staple, and it was selling at that time for as much as £20 per bale. The climate was found to be suitable for the rapid increase of flocks, and where the land was at all open the expense of starting was not great.

The inflow of population became greater than ever: another census was taken on 2nd of March, 1841, when it was found that the 3,511 persons of September, 1838, had increased to the number of 11,738. Six years later these had grown to 32,879. The Western District was, owing to its easy access and fertile soil, a large sharer in this prosperity. Geelong at an early date became quite a busy town, Portland throve well under the guidance of the Hentys, and Warrnambool was the head quarters of quite an extensive country.

An important change in the position of Port Phillip took place in 1841: up to that date the funds produced by the sale of the land had been paid to the Government of New South Wales: these were now given up to the local authorities, and Port Phillip was also allowed to send six members to the Legislative Council of New South Wales. In the following year Melbourne obtained municipal privileges, and the town now became a city, and improved in appearance day by day.

It would take too long to tell all about the rise and growth of the scores of towns which now cover the colony from one end to the other, it is enough to say that the country continued to expand, so that by 1849 the population amounted to over 70,000 people, the males continuing largely in excess of the females. These, of course, though prosperous, were not without their share of troubles. All through 1842 and to the end of 1845 there had been trade difficulties, owing to wild speculations in land, but these ceased in time. Churches and schools

were erected as fast as means would permit, not only in the City of Melbourne, but in the small country towns. On the 23rd of January, 1848, the Rev. Charles J. Perry, the first Anglican Bishop of Melbourne, arrived; and was installed in the Cathedral Church of St. James, on the 13th of February. About the same time Dr. Goold, the first Roman Catholic Bishop of Melbourne, arrived in the colony.

## Discovery of Gold.

1851 TO 1860.

An event was now about to happen which changed the very face of the colony. All through the years 1849 and 1850, there had been rumours that gold had been found in various places. These were believed by some and doubted by others, but the general effect was to prompt many persons to search for the precious metal. By the middle of 1851, all doubts were set at rest. In several places at once gold was found: in some instances, notably at Ballarat, in such abundance that men rushed there from every quarter of the colony, and the ordinary work of daily life was almost stopped. The news

THE GOLD DIGGINGS.

quickly spread, and the result was a further large increase in the population of Victoria. From Sydney, Hobart, and Adelaide the diggers crowded each other on the road to the goldfields; while so soon as the people in the old country were convinced that the reports were founded on fact, ships were filled with passengers, whose one desire was to be on the mines without loss of time. Even from Germany, Italy, and the United States immigrants arrived; and as new and rich goldfields were discovered almost daily, this influx of population continued in full force for five or six years.

This sudden accession of wealth caused a great change in the habits of thousands who had been hitherto content with a quiet life of labour. When a man could sometimes earn fifty or a hundred pounds in a day, it is little wonder that he became recklessly extravagant. His moral nature was not improved, and a gambling spirit spread abroad. But side by side with this there was great enterprise, and such a generous disposition to encourage public works, that some of the mining towns soon began to look worthy of being capital cities. This was the time of alluvial mining, which, however, soon came to an end, but not until a fabulous amount of gold had been obtained by the simple process of washing the surface of the earth. If, with the last of the alluvial mining, the industry had come to an end, the numerous towns which had grown up would have perished as quickly as they had appeared. But it was soon seen that there was an endless supply of the precious metal in the great quartz reefs which abound in Victoria, if only those reefs could be worked with proper machinery and at a reasonable cost. That this could be done was soon proved, and thus in a few years mining became the chief, and the production of wool the second, industry in the colony.

The arrival of so many immigrants, and the enormous imports of goods required for the increased population, made Melbourne one of the busiest ports in the world. Hobson's Bay was crowded with shipping, and with this access of prosperity the city rapidly began to show signs of its future grandeur. Geelong shared abundantly in the trade. This port possessed the advantage of being many miles nearer to Ballarat and the goldfields than Melbourne. There were no railways in Victoria in those days, and land carriage was terribly expensive; the saving of distance became of the greatest importance, and for a short time Geelong promised to rival even Melbourne. As for Ballarat itself, it may be said that this beautiful city, the pride of Victoria, owes almost everything to her endless yield of gold.

GOING TO THE DIGGINGS.

It was not to be expected that a whole country should undergo such a rapid change, should double its population over and over again, and should become frenzied in the rush for gold, without having to suffer many and severe troubles. One of the chief of these was a conflict which arose between the authorities and the diggers on the subject of mining licenses, and which culminated in a resort to arms by the latter.

The story of the Eureka Tragedy will never be forgotten in Victoria, but dark as it is, the event was not without good in its final results.

The Government of the day, partly for purposes of revenue and partly for purposes of police, compelled each digger to take out a mining license, for which a monthly fee of thirty shillings was charged. This was a heavy tax on those who were not fortunate in finding rich deposits, and loud complaints were heard on all sides. But the anger of the miners was still more provoked when the police claimed the right to demand the production of the license whenever and wherever they chose. The discontent spread rapidly, and at last the diggers at Ballarat broke out into open rebellion under the leadership of Mr. Peter Lalor, an Irish gentleman of good family. They started a camp and began in a small way to drill and entrench themselves by erecting a stockade. This position was soon attacked by regular troops: 30 diggers were killed, 125 taken prisoners, and Lalor himself escaped with the loss of an arm. A reward was offered for his capture, but he was not taken, and years afterwards opinions had so changed that Lalor became Speaker of the Victorian Assembly.

Though the insurgents had been crushed, public feeling compelled the Government to reform the whole system, and remove evils which ought never to have been inflicted.

Another outcome of the time was the appearance of armed gangs of robbers, who stopped the coaches and plundered the passengers of money or gold dust. The greater portion of the gold found was brought into Melbourne under the protection of strong escorts, but so bold did these gangs become, that on more than one occasion they overcame the police, and made off with large amounts of gold. But in a few years the the career of these men was cut short.

The period of alluvial gold searching may be said to have seen its best days by the end of 1860. Previous to this

considerable progress had been made in the far more difficult task of quartz-mining, which requires science, capital, and machinery. Neither of these was wanting, and constant improvement was made in the appliances both for winning and saving the gold, and by these means many poor reefs were worked at a profit. By the decay of the simpler process large numbers of diggers were thrown out of work, many of them found their way back to Melbourne, but there was some distress in the city itself, and then for the first time the cry of the unemployed was heard in the land. But as a set-off to the loss of an uncertain occupation, such as surface digging, the country now began to be dotted with manufacturing establishments. Many hundreds of the immigrants from the Old Country had been skilled mechanics, who naturally wished to revert to their old trades when they were disappointed in their hopes of sudden wealth. The difficulties to be overcome before these various industries could be started were enormous, as machinery and the higher class of tools had to be imported, but the position of Victorian manufactures to-day shows that the beginners had courage and perseverance.

## Political Progress.

### 1835 TO 1855.

In the very early days of the Port Phillip settlement the inhabitants did not trouble themselves much about political matters. The first comers had such a chance as had never before been offered to adventurers. With an almost perfect climate, a fertile and practically a boundless soil, and no fighting aboriginals to subdue, their time and attention were fully

occupied in taking up the land, and growing rich. But they belonged to a race to whom good government and freedom were not privileges, but absolute rights. The district was still a portion of New South Wales, and all matters of public interest were regulated from Sydney.

With the institution of land sales and the diversion of the proceeds to the Mother Colony the position changed: there was great need for important public works in Port Phillip, roads, bridges, and a score of other matters essential to the welfare of the people, being urgently required. It was felt to be unjust that the money obtained for the soil, and the very dues collected at the Custom House should be appropriated by New South Wales, while the needs of the new district were ignored. It was impossible that such a state of affairs should continue, and protests were made which increased in vigour as the population grew. In the year 1840 a meeting was held, at which it was resolved to petition the British Government for the separation of the Port Phillip District from New South Wales. This action was resented in Sydney, but met with some favour in England. In 1843 an imperfect form of Representative Government was granted to the Parent Colony, in this the new settlement was of course to share. The new Council consisted of twelve members nominated by the Governor, and twenty-four elected by the settlers. The number allotted to Port Phillip was six. It was soon seen that this concession was really valueless. Melbourne men could not leave their homes and occupations to reside for five months of the year in Sydney: they had therefore to elect Sydney men, and it was found in practice that these were invariably outvoted in all matters where the interests of Port Phillip seemed to conflict with those of New South Wales.

The sense of labouring under injustice increased in bitterness, redress being sought in vain ; so another petition, prepared by Dr. Lang, and signed by all the Port Phillip members, was sent to England, and so favourably received that the separatists looked upon the victory as won. But a change in the British Ministry again defeated their hopes.

At length in 1848, the irritated settlers resolved that they would send no more representatives to Sydney, and so compel the attention of the Imperial Government to their defenceless condition. This plan was defeated by the nomination of a Mr. Foster for the Melbourne constituency, on which the advocates of separation took the remarkable step of nominating Earl Grey, the Imperial Colonial Secretary, for the vacant seat. It was a clever political move, the Minister was elected by a triumphant majority, and although he could not come to Australia to fulfil his duties, he looked carefully into the whole matter, and saw at once that the grievances complained of were very real.

The question was laid before a Committee of the Privy Council, and the inequity of one portion of a British Colony taxing for its own behoof the other portion was at once seen. The Committee reported in favour of erecting Port Phillip district into a separate colony, and suggested that it should be named Victoria, after the reigning sovereign.

On the 1st of July, 1851, the formal severance took place, and on the 15th of the same month Mr. Latrobe, who had hitherto held the position of Superintendent of the Port Phillip district of New South Wales, became the first Governor of the Colony of Victoria.

The same Act of the Imperial Parliament which granted to Victoria a separate existence, conceded to each colony the

power to devise the form of self-government most agreeable to its own desires. The maturing of these schemes took some time, and when they reached London in 1854 they were found to be all based on similar lines, viz.: an Upper and a Lower House, to be called respectively the Council and the Assembly. The latter was to be purely elective and to have the control of the Public purse, which practically means that the Assembly appoints and dismisses the Ministers who act as responsible advisers to the Governor. The franchise varied considerably in the different colonies, but this was a minor matter when it was evident from the earliest days that the tendency was to lower and broaden it in every direction. The Constitutions as submitted were approved of by the Imperial Government, virtually without alteration.

## Development of the Colony.

1860 TO 1870.

From the earliest days the settlers in Victoria were quite convinced that the country had a grand future before it: this was shown in many ways, but especially in the bold scale on which Melbourne was planned. The surveyor who laid out the site had seen the old world, the evils of narrow, crooked thoroughfares; and, having plenty of space, determined on uniformity of design, with broad straight main streets and smaller ones running parallel to them. It was not then thought that these smaller streets would themselves become the head-quarters of ceaseless commerce.

Very soon after the first land sale, the residents set to work on permanent improvements requiring large expenditure. Thus, on the 20th of March, 1846, the Melbourne Hospital was

ormed, and the same day the first stone of the old Princes Bridge was laid. But steady and constant as the progress was, it became as nothing to the transformation brought about by the gold discoveries. Every year, and almost every month, some new enterprise was commenced or completed. On the 13th of September, 1854, the Hobson's Bay Railway was opened. This was a private venture which was afterwards acquired by the Government. A month later the first Victorian Exhibition was opened, and in the same year, the Melbourne Public Library was commenced, and the University founded. The year 1856 saw the erection of the new Parliament House, and the city supplied with gas; while large railway works were in progress, the St. Kilda and the Geelong lines being opened in the following year. On the 1st of January, 1858, one of the most important undertakings, both as regards extent and usefulness was completed, and the city was assured a copious and pure supply of Yan Yean water. In October that very useful institution the Women's Hospital was opened. The catalogue of public works in progress at this period is too long to recite in full; but, side by side with all these, private enterprise was improving the city on all sides, handsome stone buildings replaced the earlier erections of brick and wood, railways were extended in different directions, telegraphic communication was established; and steamships replaced the old sailing vessels in the long ocean voyage to the old world.

It must not be supposed that Melbourne was growing at the expense of the country at large, on the contrary the chief towns showed equal public spirit and were disposed to rival Melbourne in the forward march. Ballarat, Geelong, and many other places were prompt to supply their citizens with churches, free libraries, public gardens, and educational

establishments. Many persons accumulated vast wealth, but the generous use they made of it reflects the greatest honour on the leading men of the time.

Such unbounded prosperity could not in the nature of things be continuous, the alluvial fields began to show signs of exhaustion, while the quartz reefs presented difficulties which had not then been overcome. In fact, quartz-mining was in its infancy. Many diggers lost their occupation: for a time there was real distress and some discontent, and property rapidly lost a good deal of its inflated value.

The industrial troubles led to important political changes, the chief being the introduction of the system which is now generally described as the policy of protection.

It has been mentioned in an earlier chapter that a large proportion of the diggers who came out from England and elsewhere in the early fifties were skilled mechanics. When the alluvial gold was almost exhausted these men found themselves in want of a livelihood. They trooped into Melbourne, and there saw the wharfs crammed with machinery, clothing, furniture, and the thousand things which civilized life requires. They felt competent to supply these articles if they could only get a start. But wages in Europe were nominal and freight was low, while the immigrant had got accustomed to a standard of living, which it required high wages to maintain. The remedy for this state of affairs, it was thought, would be found by levying heavy customs duties on imports. It was argued that the system would enrich the revenue, and give the local mechanics a chance of competing on more equal terms, with the underpaid workers at home.

The proposal had the effect of at once dividing the colony into two camps, the importers, a wealthy and powerful body,

saw their interests threatened; and the consumer, who was neither importer nor maker, thought that the cost of his purchases would be increased. Such a domestic revolution involved a long controversy, but the protectionists continued to gain ground, and in 1864 the Premier, James McCulloch, introduced a Bill in the Assembly, which imposed duties on such imported articles as could be made in Victoria. The labour party was strong in the Lower House, but was virtually unrepresented in the Council. The Assembly passed the Bill, the other Chamber rejected it, and the bitterest political animosity was excited. But in a purely democratic community such as Victoria had become, there could be but one end to any struggle between the two Houses of Parliament.

So far as the elections to the Assembly was concerned manhood suffrage had existed since 1859, and the workers being in the majority, returned members who would vote for protection. The Ministry, supported by the House which controlled the purse, strained their powers to such an extent that revolution and riot seemed imminent. The Governor of the day, Sir Charles Darling, became involved in the angry feelings of the time and was recalled by the British Government, many other troubles ensued, but eventually, in 1866, the Council found it expedient to give way, and the Tariff Bill as it was called, became part of the law of Victoria. From that time the policy of the colony has been on protectionist lines, and it now possesses manufacturing establishments which can and do turn out work of various kinds, such as machinery, woollen goods, boots and hats, equal to anything made in England or in Europe.

The McCulloch Ministry which had fought for the supremacy of the Assembly was dismissed in 1868, and was followed by a

succession of Governments during the next few years, none of which retained power for any length of time. During this period, the payment of members question arose and was the cause of dissension between the two Houses. A temporary Act authorizing such payment had been passed in 1870 and reviewed in 1874. In 1877 the Berry Ministry determined to make the system permanent, and tacked the Enabling Act to the Appropriation Bill. This was thrown out by the Council, and the result was the unhappy day known as Black Wednesday. The Government took the extreme step of dismissing at an hour's notice the greater part of the civil servants of the colony, a measure so desperate that few persons have ever been disposed to justify it. Many of the unfortunate officers were never restored to their posts, and the Act brought ruin on hundreds of innocent families. But so far as the Council was concerned the quarrel could have but one end: the Assembly has supreme control of the public purse, and payment of its members is now the established policy in the country.

ROBERT O'HARA BURKE.

In 1860 the Royal Society of Victoria organized the most complete exploring expedition, which had ever been despatched by any Australian colony, its main object being to journey across the continent. No expense was spared and a number of camels were imported from Arabia to carry the supplies. The leadership was given to Robert O'Hara Burke,

and he was accompanied by W. J. Wills, who was provided with an adequate supply of astronomical instruments for the purpose of making scientific observations. The party left Melbourne in August and formed quite a long train, there being, in addition to twenty-six camels, no less than twenty-eight horses. On reaching Menindie after ascending the Darling River, Burke and Wills, with six men and as many camels and horses, set out, the remaining portion of the expedition being left with a subordinate named Wright, who had instructions to follow on slowly. Burke reached Cooper's Creek, where he formed a depôt, and there being no lack of water and pasture, he gave his animals a needful rest and awaited the arrival of Wright, who, however, did not appear.

Burke was an impetuous man, and losing patience at Wright's delay, he determined to make a dash for the Gulf of Carpentaria. He took with him Wills, and two men named King and Gray, with six camels and one horse. He left the depôt in charge of a man named Brahe, with instructions to remain on the creek for three months and then to return to Menindie. After six weeks of arduous toil the party struck a stream flowing north, and found it ran into a large river which Burke was convinced fell into the great Gulf. So rapid had been their movements that the camels were now exhausted, so leaving Gray and King with them, and taking only the horse to carry the food, Burke and Wills started out on foot to reach the sea. They came to an inlet on the Gulf of Carpentaria, but only to be convinced that they must immediately return, as their provisions were almost exhausted. After intense suffering they arrived at the place where they had left Gray and King, and began the return journey to the south. On their way to Cooper's Creek, Gray died. At last the travellers

reached the depôt, only to find that Brahe had left that very morning. He had waited four months and a-half instead of three, and with great forethought, had buried a small quantity of stores, which the unhappy men found.

W. J. WILLS.

Any attempt to overtake Brahe, whose camels were fresh, was hopeless: it only remained to commence the homeward journey at once and to economise the stores as much as possible.

There were two courses open to them, Burke insisted on starting for Mount Hopeless 150 miles distant, Wills desired to take the longer and safer route to Menindie, 360 miles away, but Burke would not be persuaded. And now began a series of sufferings, wanderings, and continued misfortunes which were to end in the death of the two leaders, and the rescue of King in an almost dying state. On leaving Cooper's Creek they soon entered a region of barrenness. They killed one of the camels and dried its flesh for food, and then wandered to and fro, growing weaker day by day, Wills being the first to sink. Burke and King placed him in a native hut, and started out in search of a party of blacks from whom they might obtain some assistance On the second day Burke himself completely broke down, he desired King to stay by him until the end, and not to bury him, but to let him lie above the ground with a pistol in his right hand. Thus ended this disastrious enterprise, which had commenced under such favourable auspices.

When Brahe returned to Victoria with the news that nothing had been heard of the explorers after they had started from Cooper's Creek, search parties were immediately organized and it was by one of these that King was rescued. The same party found the remains of Burke and Wills and buried them, but they were afterwards disinterred, brought to Melbourne and received the honours of a public funeral. The fine monument in Spring Street, Melbourne, was a few years later erected to their memory.

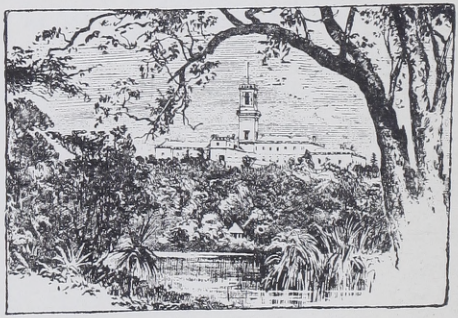
## Material Progress.

1870 TO 1900.

Meantime Victoria and its population were steadily advancing in prosperity. Gold continued to be found in abundance, and in October, 1872, coal was discovered in Gippsland. In addition to the large export of wool, Victoria began also to send out wheat, to which was added in 1880 frozen meat, and later on, butter. The development of the trade in this article of food, has been rapid, and the business seems capable of indefinite expansion. During this period all trade was flourishing, railways were penetrating the country in all directions, state schools rose in every town, and there was a lavish expenditure on public buildings. A large amount of money was continually being raised by means of loans, and was freely spent. The colony was to suffer in the future for this recklessness, but while the outlay was going on everybody was satisfied. One immediate result of this condition of affairs was a revival of the speculation in land, which had so frequently proved disastrous to the country. This ran its usual course. High prices were asked and given, and these

frequently doubled in apparent value in a few weeks. The banks lent money on the most nominal securities, and the gambling went on more fiercely than ever. The banks could not continue to make these advances, unless they obtained some repayments, and when these were asked for the end came. Prices went down rapidly, and large numbers of the investors of Victoria were, for the time, reduced to comparative poverty. In the early part of 1893 nearly every bank and financial institution in Melbourne suspended payment, and it took six or seven years of painful economy to put them on a sound basis again.

The collapse admittedly caused intense suffering, but it was not without a bright side. The land boom, as it was called, had promoted a tendency to wasteful luxury and improvidence, but the depression forced the people into more frugal habits. The Government set the example by commencing a course of retrenchment throughout the public service. Business firms adopted the same line of action, and private families had perforce to adapt themselves to the new conditions. It was a hard time, for the colony had been affected with bad seasons in succession, and prices for wool and wheat were low. It was borne manfully enough, and the year 1899, with a bountiful harvest and a great rise in the value of wool, saw the people virtually through their bitter experience.



GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MELBOURNE.

Although from the earliest days the Victorians had shown a a determination to possess the fullest self-government in all matters of internal concern, they were quite alive to the necessity of combined action on questions which affected the continent as a whole, such as defence, intercolonial railway communication, bridges, and mail contracts. It was seen that in these affairs unity meant not only strength but economy. Naturally any movement in these directions met at first with a certain amount of opposition. Personal interests had grown up, and there was a good deal of provincial jealousy to overcome. Still progress was made, though slowly; the steady growth of all the colonies rendering it absolutely necessary that artificial barriers should one by one be removed. After a time it was seen fit to appoint a Federal Council consisting of representatives of the different colonies. This body met at long intervals and its transactions were educational more than anything else, its usefulness being somewhat curtailed by the fact that New South Wales did not join it. But the desire for Federation grew rapidly in Victoria. It was discussed in the newspapers and elsewhere. Eventually, all the colonies agreed to send delegates to a Convention, which was to draft an Enabling Bill. Ten delegates were elected by each colony, the Bill framed by them being submitted to the direct vote of the people. When the polls were taken it was found that there was a large majority in favour of adopting the proposed Federal Constitution in Victoria, but in New South Wales, though there was a majority in favour of the Bill, it did not reach the required number. Slight alterations were made in the measure and later another poll was taken in that colony, the Bill being then accepted. Second polls were also taken in the other colonies, when the previous majorities were increased.

# SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

## The Wakefield Plan.

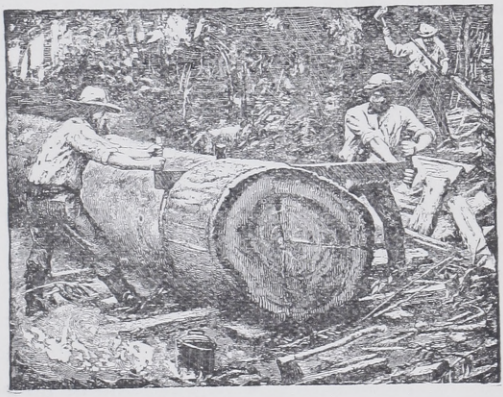
1836 TO 1840.

By the year 1830 Australia had ceased to be the comparatively unknown and mysterious place which it at first was. Something of its character, its climate, and its resources was beginning to be discovered, and many men in Great Britain, who had a little capital, and who desired to emigrate to a new country where it could be increased, were commencing to turn their thoughts there. It was just at this time that a Mr. Edward Gibbon Wakefield proposed a plan for founding a new colony on an original method. When New South Wales was settled any man who could cultivate a piece of land was given as much as he could use, and all who wanted to take up farms were not only welcomed but encouraged to do so. But this way of settling the colony had two drawbacks, it brought no revenue into the treasury, and it prevented any settler obtaining a servant. While the convicts were being sent they were available for those who could obtain their services, but no free man would work for an employer when he could get a farm of his own for nothing from the Government.

Wakefield therefore proposed that a new colony should be founded on the southern coast of Australia, that no settler in

it should obtain land except by purchase, and that the money obtained in this way should be used for the purpose of bringing out farm labourers and their families. By this means, he said, country gentlemen and others of wealth and capital would be induced to buy large tracts, thousands of agricultural workers would be brought out, and in a few years a second England would grow up beneath the Southern Cross.

This attractive scheme was received with great favour, and an Association was formed to carry it out. An appeal was first made to the British Government for the complete sovereignty of the whole of the southern portion of Australia, but this was at once refused as being too ambitious an application. Soon afterwards, however, a second appeal was made, this being for permission to settle in Australia, to sell land, and to apply the proceeds to assist immigration. This application was granted, and an Act of Parliament passed to bring the proposals into effect. Commissioners were appointed to manage the colony, while the price of land was fixed at twelve shillings per acre, to be afterwards raised to one pound per acre. Captain Hindmarsh was appointed Governor, and



PREPARING TO BUILD.

it was promised that no convicts should be sent to the new settlement.

Under these auspices the first emigrants landed in 1836, going first to Kangaroo Island, but afterwards removing to St. Vincent Gulf. Here a city was marked out about six miles from the sea, the name of Adelaide being given to it after the wife of William IV. In December, 1836, Governor Hindmarsh arrived, but as soon as he had inspected the site for the settlement he wanted to remove it to Encounter Bay. Mr. Fisher, the representative of the Association, objected to this, and a quarrel between the two ensued. This was so prolonged that all the settlers took part in it, and the British Government had to finally interfere: the Governor and Mr. Fisher being recalled. In 1838 Colonel Gawler was sent out to supersede both.

But it was soon seen that the Wakefield plan would not work in practice. Large numbers of persons had bought land which they had never seen, and when they came to inspect it found that it was either dense forest or barren and poor soil. Consequently, instead of going out to cultivate their farms, they clustered in Adelaide, where a wild speculation in town allotments set in. The poorer families which were sent out at the expense of the Association also showed a disposition to stay in Adelaide, for there was little or no work to be obtained in the country, and owing to the high price fixed for land they could not take up farms of their own. This led to another result, for owing to no food being grown provisions became scarce and dear, flour rising to as high as £60 per ton. In order to find work for these people Governor Gawler commenced a number of Government works, including roads, bridges, wharfs, and public buildings.

There was no money in the colony to pay for all these, and the Governor actually laid out nearly the whole of his own private means. He then drew bills on the Treasury in London, which were at first paid; but as more and more were sent to England the British Government became alarmed, and finally refused to pay any more. The result was that the colony had to be declared insolvent, the total debts which it was unable to meet amounting to nearly £300,000. This caused an utter collapse of all credit. The price of land went down to such a low point that many persons who had laid out large sums in purchasing blocks could not obtain enough by the sale of them to pay their passage home to England again. But with the fall in the value of land the poorer classes were enabled to obtain access to it, and they very soon grew large quantities of wheat and other commodities. Many squatters also brought sheep and cattle from New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania. At last the British Government determined to give the colony a chance. Sufficient money was lent it to pay its debts, Governor Gawler was recalled, and Captain George Grey appointed in his place; the Association was dissolved, and South Australia soon became one of the most flourishing of the colonies.

In 1840 Edward John Eyre offered to lead an expedition inland from Adelaide, he and some friends providing nearly the whole cost. His journey really commenced at the head of Spencer Gulf, where a small vessel had been sent in advance with three months supplies. After going due north for some sixty miles, he turned towards the west, and then again to the north; but found his progress blocked at every turn by half-dried salt lakes and equally salt streams. Two of these lakes he named Lake Torrens and Lake Eyre, and afterwards, vainly searching for fresh water, he was driven back to the

head of Spencer Gulf. With great determination Eyre now resolved to travel westward along the Australian Bight. The difficulties to be overcome were many; scrambling over precipitous cliffs, then struggling through moving sands, always suffering from thirst and a burning sun, their progress was slow and painful. During the journey Eyre's only white companion, Baxter, was murdered by two of the natives, and the intrepid traveller was left with only his black servant, Wylie, to find his way through the endless desert. Finally he reached King George Sound and sailed thence to Adelaide, which he reached after having been absent for over a year. Later on Captain Sturt, the discoverer of the Darling, led an expedition into the north, but owing to its taking place during an exceptionally hot summer he was not able to accomplish much.

## The Copper Mines.

1840 TO 1860.

The land within a short distance of Adelaide proved to be exceedingly rich, and especially suitable for the growth of wheat. No sooner was it farmed, then, than all fears of famine were removed, and so much corn was grown that many thousands of pounds were gained by exporting it to the other colonies. But Governor Grey found that the cost of governing the colony had been expanded to an enormous extent, and even the prosperity brought about by the successful opening up of the back country was not sufficient to meet it. Accordingly, he cut down the expenses of the State to the lowest possible point, and in three years reduced them from £170,000

to £34,000 per annum. This forced more and more people to take up farming, and so, in the end, was a double boon to South Australia.

But the circumstance to which the colony owed its first really great expansion was the discovery of mineral wealth of vast extent in different parts. In 1841, galena, a mixture of sulphur with lead and silver, was found in the Mount Lofty ranges, and the mines there were worked with great profit for many years. In 1842 Captain Bagot, with his overseer, Mr. Dutton, found copper ore at his station, Kapunda, only forty miles from Adelaide. A section of eighty acres was bought from the Government at £1 per acre, and work being quickly started the mines were soon yielding a profit of £200 per week.

A far more astounding discovery was made, however, about a hundred miles to the north of Adelaide, where a shepherd found very rich copper ore. A company was formed to buy the land from the Government, and great fears were entertained lest speculators from other colonies should step in and secure it. There was a regulation permitting the Government to sell a block of 20,000 acres at £1 per acre, in cash, without competition, and taking advantage of this, £20,000 was raised, not without trouble, and the land secured. The natives called the district "Burra Burra," and the mine received this name. It proved phenomenally rich, and soon thousands of men were employed,

GOING TO THE MINES.

either on the property or in carting the ore to Adelaide for shipment to England. In three years copper to the value of £700,000 was exported, and a town of five thousand inhabitants sprang up near the mines.

This placed the colony at once on a firm footing. The farmers and squatters obtained a large market at their very doors for all their produce, while the merchants and traders received a full share of the national prosperity. In 1845 Governor Grey was sent to rule New Zealand, his place being taken by Colonel Robe. Governor Robe was in turn succeeded, in 1848, by Governor Young, who did all in his power to forward the interests of the colony. Some of his works, indeed, were of a rather injudicious nature: a great deal of money being wasted in attempts to bring the trade of the interior of Australia to Adelaide by dredging and opening up the Murray. The difficulties were too great, and it was not till many years afterwards that steamers regularly plied on the stream; and even now they cannot reach the sea owing to the sand bars at the mouth of the river.

The great discoveries of gold in Victoria, in 1851, were the means of drawing a large number of South Australians to that colony. Many thousands of men left the mines, the fields, the stations, and even the shops, to take passage to Melbourne. The result was that the ordinary affairs of life were carried on with difficulty, and the copper mines were almost closed down for want of men to work them. But many of those who went away soon returned, finding that they could do better by growing provisions in South Australia and selling them to the gold diggers; while even those who were successful in finding the precious metal sometimes returned to Adelaide to settle down and invest their newly-discovered wealth in its vicinity.

## Responsible Government.

1860 TO 1900.

South Australia participated to the full in the measure of responsible Government which was given to all the colonies soon after 1850, and by 1860 its Parliament was elected and making laws for the benefit of the country. One of the first and most important of these was a measure called the Real Property Act, which was passed in 1858. This provided for a system of registration of land owners, by which the cumbrous and expensive method of proving titles to land before in vogue was done away with. The new principle was introduced by Mr. R. Torrens, and notwithstanding the opposition of some prejudiced and interested persons it was received by the people with great satisfaction. As soon as it came into action the results were seen to be so excellent, and the ease, simplicity, and justice with which it worked was so marked, that the other colonies, and afterwards many foreign countries, soon copied it. South Australia has conferred a real boon on the human race by introducing a registration of titles.

COOPER'S CREEK.

One of the men who had accompanied Captain Sturt in his expedition to central Australia was J. McDougall Stuart. In 1862 Stuart, after several failures, succeeded in crossing the continent from south to north. The reports brought back by him of the fertile character of the northern portions of Australia induced the people of South Australia to apply to the Government of Great Britain for permission to have this territory added to their colony, a request which was readily granted. In order to bring this district more immediately within their jurisdiction, the Government of South Australia, in 1869, resolved to undertake the building of an overland telegraph line from Adelaide to Van Diemen Gulf, along the route taken by Stuart in his journey across the continent a few years before. This was a large enterprise for such a small community, the whole distance being nearly two thousand miles long, more than half of it being through a rocky, sandy desert.

The work was begun, however, a Mr. Charles Todd superintending it. The line was divided into three sections, and each started at once. Great difficulty was anticipated in carrying through the centre, or waterless portion, and accordingly Mr. Todd took this division under his own charge. The ends were left to be constructed by contractors. Much of the land to be traversed had never been crossed by white men, except, perhaps, in Stuart's flying trip; and for long distances consisted of bare, stony earth, destitute of trees or water. All the posts had to be carted from Adelaide, while the provisions, and even some of the drinking water required by the men employed, had to be taken to the different camps of workers in the same way. The portion nearest Adelaide was the first to be completed, but the men under Todd worked so hard, and the arrangements made by that gentleman were so excellent,

that the centre block was finished very soon after that running from Adelaide. With the northern portion it was different. Much of the land to be traversed was of the same barren character as that in central Australia, while even the well-watered country at the extreme north was so covered with tropical vegetation that the men could hardly force their way through it.

The time when the line was to be completed, in order to join a cable being laid by a private company under the ocean, was now rapidly approaching, and the Government of South Australia was not in a condition to keep its agreement to have the land line ready. More assistance was sent and still not much progress was made. Finally Mr. Todd was ordered to go to the north and take charge, and for eight months he laboured to bring the work to a successful conclusion. This was at last done, the line from the north, and the line from the south were joined, and in a little while messages were being sent daily from Great Britain to Australia, and from Australia to Great Britain.

For many years past South Australia has continued to make steady progress, notwithstanding that occasional periods of depression have assailed it, these being chiefly owing to drought and low prices for its wheat and wool. The copper mines although still yielding large quantities of metal, are not so prolific as at first, but their decline has been more than counterbalanced by the discovery of silver and lead mines at Broken Hill. This town, which is, strictly speaking, in the colony of New South Wales, is only a few miles from South Australia, and all its trade is with the latter colony. The mines there are wonderfully rich and are a great source of wealth to South Australia.

South Australia took a prominent part in bringing about the Federation of Australia. When the necessary legislation was passed it elected ten representatives to attend the Federal Convention, and its then existing Premier was elected president of that body. When the Commonwealth Bill was drawn up and put to the vote of the people it was carried by a large majority in South Australia, which has always shown itself one of the most progressive of Australian colonies.

# TASMANIA.

## Early Days.

1804 TO 1810.

This lovely Island, which for a long time was supposed to be a portion of continental Australia, was first visited by a Dutch navigator, named Abel Jansen Tasman, in 1642. He had been sent by Anthony Van Diemen, the Governor of the Dutch possessions in the East Indies, to see what discoveries he could make in the Southern Ocean. Tasman did not himself land, but sent on shore some men who hoisted the Dutch flag, and who reported that the inhabitants were giants. It was not till 1797 that Bass, a naval surgeon, by passing through the strait which bore his name, proved that Van Diemen's Land was an Island. In the following year, in company with Flinders, he sailed round it. Flinders making the most accurate charts of the coast line.

In 1803 Governor King, of New South Wales, was convinced that the French intended to make a settlement in the Southern Seas, and he thought they would be likely to seize Van Diemen's Land for that purpose. To prevent this he sent Lieutenant Bowen with a small party of soldiers, and twenty-four convicts, to take possession and establish a station on the

Island. Bowen entered the river which is now known as the Derwent, and landed his people at a little bay in the estuary called Risdon Cove. A month later he received a reinforcement of soldiers and convicts, but a greater addition to the population was made early in 1804, by the arrival of Collins and his large party from Port Phillip.

Collins took command and removed the settlement to the other side of the bay, and nearer to the mouth of the estuary. On the site he chose, now stands the handsome town of Hobart.

In settling the Island the intention was not only to exclude the French, but to establish a convict station which would at once relieve New South Wales and form a safe place of detention for prisoners. Shipload after shipload of criminals was sent from Sydney, until the place became one large prison, in which the vilest malefactors, and the most brutal jailors lived in a state of perpetual warfare. The story of those dreadful days has been told over and over again in fiction, and the official records show that at this time the condition of affairs was almost intolerable. The few free settlers scattered about on their little farms were frequently the victims of those who had escaped from the gaols or the road-making gangs. Atrocious murders and other crimes were committed, followed in many cases, by equally atrocious reprisals.

Yet the little colony grew. Its natural resources were great, the climate suited those who came from the British Islands, farming, and, later on, whaling became profitable, and there grew up a considerable export trade in wheat.

## Convict Times.

1810 TO 1850.

Collins died suddenly in his arm-chair on the 24th March, 1810, and the affairs of the infant colony were temporarily conducted by Lieutenant Hood, Captain Murray and Lieutenant-Colonel Geills who rapidly succeeded each other as commandants. On the 14th February, 1814, Lieutenant-Colonel Davey assumed office as second Governor. Davey, though eccentric, was a kind-hearted man and had some clear views on important matters. During his term of office the ports were thrown open, mercantile houses were established in Hobart, and English goods distributed freely throughout the colony. Improvements were also made in the administration of justice. Still there were troubles, the escaped convicts, who were called bushrangers, caused so much annoyance that the Governor proclaimed martial law throughout the Island. This was disallowed by his superior, Governor Macquarie, of New South Wales, and Davey relinquished office on the 14th April, 1817.

He was succeeded by Colonel William Sorell, who retained his position for seven years, during which time the Island prospered greatly. He quickly took successful measures against the bushrangers, and encouraged the extension of land under crop, and the improvement of live-stock. He was visited in 1821 by Governor Macquarie, who expressed himself much pleased with the prosperity he saw on all sides.

The rapid growth of trade led to a peculiar trouble. There was very little coin in the Island, so a good deal of business was done by barter, while "promises to pay" for as small sums

as a shilling were printed and freely passed from hand to hand. The other colonies suffered in a similar way, but not to such an extent: the remedy was found in the establishment of banks and the importation of coin from England.

Colonel Sorell retired on the 24th of May, 1824, very much regretted, and was succeeded by Colonel George Arthur, a man of undoubted ability, but imperious temper. There had of late been large arrivals of free settlers from England. These Arthur looked upon as intruders, his one fixed idea being that the Island was a convict prison and was always to remain one. Some of these settlers were not only possessed of means, but were men of education and fair social standing. With these and his own subordinates, Arthur quickly came into collision, and it may be said that during the twelve years of his rule he was never at any time popular.

Soon after this time a change took place in the colony. The Imperial Government had observed its rapid growth and thought the time had arrived when it might with advantage sever its connection with New South Wales. Governor Darling arrived at Hobart, and on the 3rd of December, 1825, its independence of the Mother Colony was proclaimed, Arthur still remaining Governor. A Supreme Court was erected and other necessary changes made.

One of the remarkable events during Arthur's long term of office was his attempt to deal with the blacks on a large scale. The aboriginals of Van Diemen's Land had always been more difficult to deal with than their kindred on the mainland, they had been cruelly used, and there was a very bad feeling between them and the whites. Arthur resolved on the extraordinary step of enclosing the whole of the blacks within a cordon of troops, and after trapping them, deporting them bodily to a

small adjacent island. He tried his plan and failed miserably, the experiment cost the colony £30,000, and his captives numbered two.

To enumerate all Arthur's quarrels and disputes would not be profitable, but amid them all the community prospered, the population trebled, the live stock increased, and so did the imports, the exports, and the revenue.

Sir John Franklin succeeded Colonel Arthur on the 6th of January, 1837, and held office for over six years, during which period the Island suffered from a great fall in the price of wheat and live stock. Sydney and Adelaide had been drawing large supplies from Hobart, but the latter had become self-supporting as regards wheat, and Sydney had become an exporter of live stock. So great was the depression that sheep were sold at half-a-crown apiece, and flour was only bringing £7 10s. per ton. There were other troubles; the free settlers were tired of the flood of convicts, which was always being poured into the Island, and the agitation against the system increased.

Sir John Franklin took much interest in advancing the cause of education, but even on this question he was opposed for going too far, while some blamed him for not going far enough. His recall was owing to his having dismissed Mr. Montague, the Colonial Secretary, a step which the Imperial Government did not approve. The authorities in England took the extreme step of appointing and sending out his successor before giving notice of his dismissal. Franklin's ultimate fate when in search of the north-west passage is well known. His was a noble character, but he was more at home when encountering the dangers of the sea than in ruling a somewhat turbulent colony.

Sir John Eardly Wilmot succeeded Franklin, and found on his arrival that the convict question was over-riding all others. Transportation to New South Wales had ceased in 1840, but in Van Diemen's Land the convicts continued to arrive in greater numbers than ever. It was not only the influx of so much vice that the free settlers complained of, but the cost of maintaining a host of police, the convicts themselves, and the conduct of innumerable prosecutions became too heavy for such a small community to bear. Yet they could obtain no relief from the English Government, and public feeling ran high. Wilmot computed that at this time the criminal population numbered about 25,000 persons, and they were being added to at the rate of 5000 a year. The non-official members of the Legislative Council refused to pass the Appropriation Bill and confusion ensued.

At that time Lord Stanley was Colonial Secretary in England, and a more arbitrary man never held the office. His instructions to Wilmot were to tax the colonists and hold them firmly in hand. The Governor found himself unable to do either, and accordingly was recalled.

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## A New Start.

1850 TO 1900.

Sir William Denison succeeded Wilmot on the 26th of January, 1847, and he commenced his duties with one or two acts of conciliation. This encouraged the colonists to set seriously to work, in order to obtain two things. They wanted Government by elective Parliaments, and the abolition of transportation. On the 24th of October, 1851, the Legislative Council became an elective body, and from that day convictism

was doomed. It finally ceased on the 10th of February, 1853, and in the following year the name of the colony was altered from Van Diemen's Land to Tasmania, after the man who had originally discovered the Island.

Sir William Denison's term of office will be remembered for these two great reforms, but he was an able man, and exerted himself in many ways for the benefit of the colony, notably in the construction of public works and in the amelioration of the condition of the criminal population. He retired on the 8th of January, 1855, and under his successor, Sir Henry E. F. Young, responsible Government came into full operation.

Tasmania had a clear course, and, it must be said, did not fail to avail herself of it. A quiet period of steady progress ensued, and the new Parliament did its share of the work by placing the public finances on a sounder basis. During Young's administration, several domestic improvements were accomplished, Hobart was lighted with gas, and a telegraph line between Launceston and the capital was established. In 1859 steps were taken to form a volunteer force for purposes of defence.

The amazing success of the Victorian gold diggings had a double effect on Tasmania. A large number of men crossed the strait to try their fortune, amongst them being many ex-convicts and ticket-of-leave men. This was one result, the other was that those who remained behind were stimulated to search for gold in their own country. At an early sitting of the first Parliament £2000 was noted for the purpose of making a trial of ground at Fingal, where gold had already been found. It was seen that though gold is widely distributed throughout Tasmania, it does not exist in such abundance as it does in Victoria.

Young was succeeded by Colonel Gore Brown at the end of 1861, he remaining Governor for eight years. During his administration, large public works were inaugurated and carried on with borrowed money, perhaps the most important of these being the railway between Hobart and Launceston.

Various Governors succeeded each other, but the history of Tasmania has been for many years a peaceful and uneventful one. Steady growth in population, in wealth, in means of communication, in exports and imports is the story.

The quantity of gold produced gradually increased, but was eclipsed in value by the results of tin-mining at Mount Bischoff, where a large deposit of this valuable metal was found in 1871. This has now been nearly worked out. During the last few years, however, valuable copper mines have been found at Mount Lyell, and many thousands of men are employed on them.

# QUEENSLAND.

## Convict Times.

1824 TO 1840.

This immense territory, covering an area of nearly 700,000 square miles, is the youngest of all the Australian colonies, having been made independent of New South Wales, of which it once formed a part, so lately as the 10th of December, 1859. A country extending over nearly twenty degrees of latitude, must needs have some considerable variation of climate, but though its northern extremity reaches to within ten degrees of the equator, the atmosphere of Queensland is exhilarating, and there is an absence of the hot winds which afflict some of the Australian colonies.

The coast was sighted by Captain Cook in 1770, but it was not until 1799 that Flinders first landed on the shores. Cook named the portion of the mainland which he saw Moreton Bay; and the whole district retained this name until it was made an independent colony, when it received its present designation. Flinders had been sent to find a navigable river, but this he failed to do, because at the time of his visit to Moreton Bay the mouth of the stream flowing into it was choked with earth-banks and drifts.

In 1817 Governor King, of New South Wales, received orders from the Imperial Government to survey and chart the shores of Queensland, but it was not until 1823 when he went to Moreton Bay, taking with him his Surveyor-General, Mr. Oxley, that much was done. What is now known as Brisbane River was discovered, and, as usual in those days, a site was chosen for the establishment for a penal settlement. The first party of convicts was sent in the following year under the command of Lieutenant Miller, and they began work on a spot not far from where Brisbane now stands. The prisoners were men of the most desperate character, but Miller and his soldiers kept them incessantly at road-making and other laborious toil. He made such progress as to satisfy his superiors, who kept him supplied with shipments of the worst criminals that could be found amongst the Sydney convicts. This state of affairs continued until 1840, during which period a succession of officers acted as commandants. They were all of one type, harsh to brutality, but sufficiently strong to hold in hand the desperadoes under their charge. These men call for no particular remark.

In 1828, Allan Cunningham had discovered the Darling Downs, and his report of the rich pastures to be found there led to numerous arrivals of squatters, with their flocks, from New South Wales. For shepherds the squatters now hired some of the Moreton Bay convicts, and a number of police came from Sydney to preserve order. The police and the shepherds alike were unable to prevent the aboriginals from raiding the flocks, the result being that summary vengeance was taken on the blacks, and in many instances they were shot down as remorselessly as though they had been wild beasts.

## The Free Settlers

1840 TO 1859.

Up to 1840 Moreton Bay had been a prison pure and simple, free settlers being excluded, but in that year a few were admitted. In March, 1842, Governor Gipps, of New South Wales, visited Brisbane, and in the following May declared the whole country open for settlement. This announcement was not very favourably received by the great squatters who had taken up large tracts of land for their sheep stations: for these they paid quite nominal rents, and they employed convict labour which cost them little or nothing. Many of these men were amassing fortunes, and they were shrewd enough to see that free settlement would sooner or later interfere with their arrangements.

EXPLORING THE FOREST.

Their protests had very little effect on Governor Gipps, and two land sales were shortly afterwards held: the first in Sydney, the other in Brisbane. Both were well attended and proved to be great successes. From this time suitable free settlers began to arrive from England, these took up farm lands within a moderate distance of Brisbane, and from the first did well. As their numbers increased little townships sprang up in various directions, the whole settlement growing at a remarkable rate.

It was not long before the inevitable question of separation from New South Wales arose, but many opposing interests were involved, and naturally enough prolonged discussion took place. In the Sydney Assembly it was argued that if Moreton Bay was erected into an independent colony it would inevitably be a penal settlement, and by this time all Australia had resolved that the convict plague should be swept from the whole continent. Nevertheless, severance was finally resolved on, and it then became only a question of fixing the boundary line. Latitude 30° south had at first been suggested, but this was not found suitable: after much discussion, the present limits were fixed, the rough country about the head-waters of the Clarence River constituting a national dividing line.

## Separation.

1859 TO 1870.

As already stated, on the 10th of December, 1859, the settlement of Moreton Bay became the colony of Queensland, with Sir George Bowen as first Governor, and a constitution almost identical with that of New South Wales.

Many people had questioned whether Queensland with its small population could find a sufficiency of suitable men to carry on successfully the work of responsible Government. All doubts on this point were quickly removed. The Legislature soon got to work and passed various Acts relating to the land, public works, immigration and other matters, all of which were justified by the results of their enactment.

The population continued to increase by immigration, and the new arrivals settled at intervals along the coast, of necessity going farther and farther northwards. As they travelled they

began to appreciate the almost unlimited natural wealth of the new country. At an early period an attempt was made to grow cotton, and the civil war of North America gave this industry a great start. With the return of peace in the United States cotton fell rapidly in price, and the Queenslanders could not compete with Carolina; but the brief period of prosperity had been of great service to the young colony.

In the early sixties Queensland had borrowed freely for the construction of public works, but in 1866 a financial crisis in London severely affected this in common with all other dependancies of the Empire. The trouble did not last long; in 1867, rich gold was discovered at Gympie, and this induced a systematic search for gold in every place that looked at all promising. Charters Towers, Palmer diggings, and Mount Morgan followed in succession, and put the colony in the front rank as a gold-producing country.

For the first few years during which Queensland existed as an independent colony she had no politics in the ordinary sense of the word: local rivalries and jealousies existed, and the usual disputes as to the particular route of a railway, and kindred matters naturally arose. But the colonists, as a body, were too busy with the work of subduing the land to think of much else.

## The North and its Industries.

1870 TO 1890.

An industry had been started, however, which showed great possibilities, but which involved the question of imported black labour, and to the use of this Australians have always strongly objected. When it was found that cotton would grow

in certain districts, sugar-cane was tried, and it quickly flourished beyond the hopes of those who made the experiment The cultivation of this plant is one of the most laborious occupations in the range of industry. Heat and moisture are necessary, and the combination is too exhausting for white men. It was necessary also that the labour should be cheap in order that the growers might compete with planters in the West Indies and elsewhere. After experimenting with coolies from India and China, who were found unsuitable, the cane-growers tried the South Sea Islanders, who are known as Kanakas. These simple people were found to answer the purpose admirably. Content with mere food and shelter, they were cheap, and could be sent home at the end of a term with a trumpery gun and a few trinkets in full satisfaction of all wages. Such a system answered the purpose of the planters so admirably, that when the voluntary supply of the Kanakas fell off, the shipmasters visiting the South Sea Islands resorted to kidnapping, and it is beyond dispute that slavery in one of its worst forms was revived. Naturally, a great outcry arose amongst right-thinking men at this iniquity, the most stringent rules for the regulation of the traffic were imposed, but many believe these rules are still more or less evaded. So strongly did some of the colonists feel on this matter, that a large political party grew up in Southern Queensland, which opposed the use of coloured labour for any purpose whatever in what they called a white man's country. This party has the sympathy of all the southern colonies. But the planters declare that without coloured labour they can grow no sugar, and the industry has become of such importance that it cannot be lightly abandoned. Moreover, it is felt that tropical Queensland can never be properly developed by white labour alone.

An active agitation was commenced for another division of the territory, and the familiar argument about the great distance of the capital and the ignorance of people at Brisbane of everything that concerned Cape York peninsula was used; just as it had been said that Sydney had not known what was good for Brisbane. No severance has taken place up to the present date, but under a Federation of the whole of Australasia it is probable that a solution of the difficulty may be found.

The vast extent of country which forms the western part of Queensland makes, and will continue to make for some time, the pastoral industry the distinctive feature of the colony: the incredible flocks of sheep and herds of cattle produce such wealth in wool, tallow, hides, and meat as to entirely outweigh in the aggregate, the fruits of other occupations. But the resources of the colony have, as a matter of fact, been scarcely tested in the brief time since it obtained independence. Coal—the basis of so many operations—is known to exist over a large area, copper and tin, with other valuable minerals, such as antimony, bismuth, and manganese, have been found in payable quantities; and the mines only await the advent of capital and improved appliances to become great centres of activity.

With regard to the northern portion of this great province, there is no limit to its productiveness, if once the labour difficulty could be arranged. Such valuable products as indigo, tea, cotton, tobacco, and spices can be grown with facility. The timber resources of the great forests are pratically inexhaustible, and already many sawmills are in operation. Pearl-fishing on the northern coasts is carried on extensively, and with great profit to the adventurers.

Before leaving this brief description of the capabilities of Queensland for the future, it should be pointed out that the extensive coasts abound with excellent harbours, and the facilities for water communication are very great. Further, it need hardly be said that the making of roads, and railway construction, have been continued with vigour since the first days of settlement.

## Queensland and New Guinea.

1890 TO 1900.

Of all the Australian Colonies there is not one which has a greater interest in New Guinea and the South Sea Islands than Queensland. Divided only by Torres Strait from the continental island of New Guinea, it will always be of vital consequence to Queensland to see that such a possession does not fall into the hands of a possible enemy. The division of the Pacific Island territory is not only an Imperial, it is a European question in which the vital interests of all Australasia are concerned. For the present, that portion of New Guinea immediately opposite to Queensland is under British rule, but constant negotiations are going on between the English Government and the military powers of the old world, and up to a very short time ago there was a disposition in London to slight the interests of the small Australian communities. The South African war, and the outburst of patriotism on this side of the world have changed all that; and, presumably, the idea that colonies were more bother than profit has been laid to sleep for ever. Henceforth, all Australia may rest assured that her interests will never again be neglected by the parent state.

Queensland did not take part in the Federal Convention, but the Commonwealth Bill, as amended by the conference of premiers called at the instance of New South Wales, was submitted to the vote of the people. It was carried by a considerable majority, and the great colony of the north will therefore enter the Commonwealth of Australia as an original State.

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

## A Bad Beginning.

1826 TO 1848.

Western Australia the largest in point of territory of any of the Australian colonies was, until a few years ago, the most backward in material progress. For very many years its population remained stationary, the steady growth which has always been characteristic of the Eastern colonies being entirely wanting. The recent discoveries of payable goldfields, however, had the effect of attracting thousands of persons from South Australia and New South Wales, and more especially from Victoria. Every week ship-load after ship-load of immigrants arrived, and although many of these have since returned, the result has been to double and treble the number of people in Western Australia. The colony which so long lagged behind, in fact, has at last made a forward move, and seems likely to take its place as one of the leading dependances of the British Empire.

It has been already mentioned that the western coasts of the great continent of Australia were visited by Dutch sailors more than two hundred and fifty years ago, these always reporting that the land was useless for purposes of human occupation. They, however, found and named the Swan River, so calling it from the number of black swans which they saw swimming and flying about its waters. Soon after

the close of the great war between Great Britain and France, in 1815, it was thought that the French might land on and annex a portion of Australia, and accordingly the whole continent was proclaimed a British possession. To make good this claim a military station was established at King George's Sound, this being founded in 1826, and named Albany.

In 1827, Captain Stirling was sent out to inspect this station, and on his way back he visited Swan River, the beauties of which so impressed him, that he spoke of the locality with great enthusiam on his return to England. His report induced a number of persons to propose a new colony there, and, the consent of the British Government having been obtained, a scheme of settlement was drawn up. The basis of this was that grants of land were to be made to the emigrants, these to be in proportion to the capital, in goods or money, which they could take into the colony. Captain Fremantle was sent out in advance to prepare the way, and he was succeeded by Captain Stirling, who was appointed the first Governor, and a considerable number of settlers. A township was laid out where the City of Perth now is, and the Port of Fremantle was established.

Unfortunately, however, there were several radical defects in the scheme of colonization. The country round Perth was almost useless for agriculture, while the growth of sugar, tobacco, and cotton, which it was thought would have been easy, was absolutely impossible. But the greatest mistake was in disposing of the land near the capital and port in large grants of fifty and a hundred thousand acre blocks: the richer capitalists being given first choice. The consequence of this was that the small farmers, who were willing to work their

land, had to go inland a long distance before they could select farms, and this most of them declined to do.

The whole scheme of the settlement was a failure, and many of those who had gone to Western Australia with high hopes, left it to find homes in the Eastern colonies. As time went on some improvement in the state of affairs began to be made. The large blocks were broken up, and some of the best of the land was cultivated; the sheep and cattle throve in some districts, and wool, tallow, and hides began to be exported. A few scattered townships grew up round Perth, and by 1840 the colony was well established.

## The Convict Labourers.

1848 TO 1868.

Those settlers who did by hard work and dogged perseverance at last force Western Australia into a semblance of prosperity soon found that their greatest trouble was in obtaining a supply of labour. No matter how much land or capital a man possessed, he had to do almost everything himself, for there was nobody to be hired to assist him. About this time the Eastern colonies were making a great effort to rid themselves of the burden of convictism, and in 1840 transportation to New South Wales ceased. It was continued for another ten years to Moreton Bay, and until 1853 to Tasmania. Hearing of this action on the part of the British Government, the residents of Western Australia thought it would be advantageous to them if the convicts who had been refused admission to the other colonies could be landed at Fremantle. There were some who doubted this, but the need of cheap and plentiful labour was so great that

their scruples were overcome. Accordingly, in 1848, a petition was forwarded to Earl Grey, the Colonial Secretary, asking that convicts might be sent to Western Australia, and in 1850 the first shipload arrived. The introduction of convicts on a considerable scale not only meant plenty of cheap labour, but also a large circulation of money. This was sent out by the British Government for the support of such of the prisoners as were not sent among the settlers, and for the pay of the officers and guards who looked after them. This gave a decided air of prosperity to the place, the merchants and shopkeepers finding good customers in the new-comers, and the farmers and squatters a ready market for their produce. Still, Perth remained a very small town, and Fremantle was a mere village; the population of the whole colony, apart from the convicts, remaining almost stationary.

In other directions the effects of the introduction of the convicts was the reverse of pleasant. They lowered the whole moral tone of the community, and, when liberated, many of them relapsed into crime again. Moreover, the other colonies, which had striven so hard to clear Australia of the prison taint, deeply resented the action of Western Australia, and laws were passed in two or three of them placing restrictions on persons coming from that country.

These facts were not without their influence, and the party which had always opposed the introduction of the convicts gradually grew stronger. Finally, a powerful anti-transportation league was formed, and in a short while its efforts were successful. The last ship bringing convicts to Western Australia reached Fremantle in the year 1868, after which the colony received no more prisoners; although it took some time for those already there to die off.

## Self-Government.

1869 TO 1900.

With the cessation of transportation the way was opened up for granting to Western Australia some measure of self-government, similar to that already in force in the other parts of the continent. In 1869, accordingly, the first instalment was announced, a Legislative Council being instituted. This consisted of eighteen members, six nominated by the Governor, and twelve elected by the people. The nominated members included three officials, the Colonial-Secretary, the Attorney-General and the Surveyor-General. The results of this forward step, small though it was, was quickly seen in a progressive public works policy, money being borrowed in London, and some much-needed improvements carried out.

Simultaneously with this a great effort was made to discover something about the interior of the vast colony: a number of expeditions being sent out in different directions. In 1869, Mr. John Forrest, afterwards Sir John Forrest, set out in command of an expedition sent to try and discover traces of Leichhardt. Later on, in conjunction with his brother Alexander, he traversed the country between Perth and Adelaide. Warburton, and two brothers named Gregory, also made journeys, in the course of which valuable pastoral lands were discovered.

In 1878 an agitation arose in favour of the granting of full responsible government to the Colony, similar to that enjoyed by New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, and Queensland, but the British Government thought the population too small for such a step, and it was not until 1890

that it was granted. In that year a constitution came into force, and Western Australia is now governed by two Houses, a Legislative Council and a Legislative Assembly.

Meantime the population and general prosperity of the Colony continued slowly to increase. By 1880 the former had reached 30,000, while the revenue was almost to £200,000 per annum. The Railway system had also been commenced, and over one hundred miles of line were already constructed. More important still, the exports continued steadily to expand, and by that year had reached £500,000 for the twelve months: the principal articles sent out of the colony being pearl-shell, pearls, guano, hard-wood timber, wool, and copper.

In 1887 gold was found in the Kimberley district, and a number of mines were worked profitably soon afterwards. Later on the precious metal was also found at Southern Cross. In 1894, however, these discoveries were completely eclipsed by those made at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie. Very rich alluvial deposits were laid bare, and in a few months the whole circumstances of the colony were changed as if by magic. The surface diggings were easily worked, apart from the climatic difficulties, and thousands of men flocked in from the eastern seaboard. Every week ships arrived from Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide, crammed to overflowing with passengers eager to participate in the colony's good fortune: in fact, the scenes enacted in Victoria in 1851 and 1852 were repeated in Western Australia on a smaller scale. Townships sprang up as if by magic, and Perth and Fremantle doubled and trebled in size and population in a few years. Concurrent with the working of the alluvial deposits rich quartz reefs were discovered, and Western Australia is now one of the greatest gold-producing countries of the world.

When the great question of the Federation of Australia came to the front a considerable number of the people of Western Australia were anxious to join in any federal compact made. These were mostly the new-comers from the older colonies, and they were strong enough to secure the despatch of ten delegates to the Federal Convention. When the Commonwealth Bill was drawn up, however, the older residents were able to prevent its being sent to the people for adoption, and Western Australia remains the only colony which has not yet joined the great Australian Nation.